

Government funds nurses rise in full

Ministers set to agree 12.5 per cent increase

By Jill Sherman and Sheila Gunn

The Government is set to pay Britain's 508,000 nurses an extra £750 million this year, an average rise of 12.5 per cent, and regional variations for nurses' pay will be introduced, Whitehall sources disclosed last night.

Ministers are confident that the recommendations, submitted to the Prime Minister this week from the independent pay review body for nurses and midwives, will be funded in full by the Treasury, to avoid any further backlash from nurses, doctors and Conservative backbenchers.

A failure to find the full sum from the £3.5 billion reserve fund would not only rekindle the health service debate at Westminster but would appear tactless while the Prime Minister's own review of the NHS was under way.

Mr John Moore, Secretary of State for Social Services, is also pressing for at least another £100 million on top of the award, which his officials claim is the minimum necessary to prevent health authorities running into financial difficulties this year.

The review body has accepted the Government's case for geographical variations in nurses' pay and it has also approved a new clinical grading structure, under which nurses with extra skills will earn more.

Specialist nurses, such as paediatric intensive care unit staff, in areas like Birmingham and London, where recruitment problems have caused bed closures, are likely to get the most generous rises.

The price exacted is a higher award than was expected but in the next two weeks the Cabinet is expected to approve extra Treasury funding of £500 million to finance the full award.

Health authorities have already received 4.5 per cent, or about £250 million, to cover nurses' pay rises in this year's allocation. The total nursing pay bill is now approaching £5 billion.

The Prime Minister, who is studying the report with health ministers this weekend, will be under pressure to approve the rise and ensure that the full amount is backdated to April 1. A final decision will be taken by the full Cabinet on April 21 or 28.

In the past the Government has staged the award, effectively reducing the recommendation, or asked health authorities to contribute to the cost. Last year, health authorities had to find an additional £30 million from their budgets, when they were already financially stretched.

The Prime Minister is also considering the Doctors' and Dentists' Pay Review Body report, which is understood to recommend much lower rises than the nurses', together with reports from the other three review bodies.

It is likely that the extra £100 million, which the Department of Health and Social Security is confident of securing from the Treasury, will be announced alongside this month. Mr Moore hopes that a "bumper" package of good news for the health service will avert further criticism of the Government's handling of the service until the Prime Minister's review of the NHS is complete.

DHSS officials admit that hospital services faced a shortfall of £95 million in 1978/89 after over-committing their budgets. Despite the £75 million allocation to health authorities in December, another state of temporary bed closures is expected unless that sum is made recurrent. Officials also argue that compensation for the full-year effect of the emergency injection should be built in.

Although the pay recommendation for nurses appears generous compared to increases of 6 per cent offered to other public sector workers such as administrative and professional Civil Servants it is believed to include wide variations in salary rises.

To allow those with extra skills in areas with recruitment problems to be rewarded, DHSS officials admit that hospital services faced a shortfall of £95 million in 1978/89 after over-committing their budgets. Despite the £75 million allocation to health authorities in December, another state of temporary bed closures is expected unless that sum is made recurrent. Officials also argue that compensation for the full-year effect of the emergency injection should be built in.

Iran link to hijack stalemate

By Our Foreign Staff

Kuwait's official news agency yesterday directly linked Iran for the first time to the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner now at Algiers.

The agency, in an urgent despatch from Algiers, said that some of the hijackers were believed to be waiting for instructions from Iran before proceeding with talks to free the estimated 31 hostages they still hold.

Kuwait has a crisis team at Algiers airport negotiating with the hijackers through Algerian mediators.

The agency also said that a split has occurred in the ranks of the hijackers, since the plane was seized on April 5, concerning the nature of the Algerian negotiations.

"The position of the hijackers who are believed to have boarded the Kuwaiti plane in Mashhad and joined the rest of the group has hardened."

"They are believed to be awaiting instructions from outside, and particularly Iran, to decide what to do over the stalemate which has occurred in the negotiations," the agency said.

Hostages' plea, page 24

French aiming to spoil UK's Columbus bid

By Pearce Wright and Sheila Gunn

The French will attempt to sabotage a British decision to join the proposed European Columbus space programme, which will be announced next week.

The long-awaited answer from the UK Government will be given on Monday. Officials of the British National Space Centre plan to tell a special meeting of the European Space Agency that Britain wants to buy a stake in the £315 million Columbus polar-orbiting space platform.

The decision marks Britain's last chance for any involvement in the project as Monday is the deadline set by the European Space Agency.

The British officials have already been told privately by the space agency that the French representatives will use the meeting to make new proposals, including a polar platform which would be built by British Aerospace - Britain's reason for re-entry into the project - the French will offer to design and build an alternative called SPOT.

The move will split the partners in the European Space Agency, many of whom want British involvement.

Britain's supporters will argue that the French would otherwise have a near monopoly of European space. They dominate launchers with the Ariane vehicle and they are manufacturing the Hermes manned shuttle.

The French move will infuriate the British team, which fought hard to get the country back into the Columbus project against opposition from Mrs Thatcher, who believed it was too expensive.

Without the space platform and the spin off business, there would be no choice but for Britain to pull out of Columbus.

It will now be up to the European agency to approve formally Britain's application. If agreed, British Aerospace is likely to win a big contract for construction work on the platform, which will be part of the giant £2.8 billion American space station to be launched in the late 1990s.

If Britain's involvement goes ahead, the announcement is also expected to be coupled with a final answer to the Canadians stating that the Government has ruled out a contribution to the Radarsat earth observation satellite.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Minister for Trade and Industry, told the 13-member space agency in November and again in February that the Government did not want a stake in Columbus as then drawn up.

Mr Clarke's change of mind came after discussions with British Aerospace and other Continued on page 24, col 5



Mr Junzo Okudaira, whom police are hunting in connection with the Naples bombing.

Face of the Naples terror suspect

From Roger Boyes in Rome and Our Foreign Staff

US military personnel in Italy and Spain stayed on alert last night after the car bombing that killed five people in Naples on Thursday and the bombing early yesterday of an American-operated radio relay site at Los Santos de la Humosa, near the US Air Force base at Torrejón, Spain.

The Italian police last night were still hunting for Mr Junzo Okudaira, a member of the left-wing Japanese Red Army faction who appeared to have been acting in cahoots with or under contract to Middle Eastern terrorists. American sources said he was a close colleague of the notorious Venezuelan terrorist, "Carlos the Jackal", and was suspected of launching an unsuccessful attack against the US in Rome last year.

Mr Okudaira has a full terrorist biography dating back to 1972 when, working for a Palestinian splinter group, he helped to organize an attack on Lod Airport in Tel Aviv. Since then he has been linked with attacks on the French Embassy in the Hague (1974), the US Embassy in Kuala Lumpur (1975), and hijacking a plane in Bangladesh (1978).

Italian intelligence experts were also considering possible links between Libya, and a second Japanese man who has been held by federal authorities in New Jersey since Tuesday after being found carrying three sophisticated bombs in his car.

A US magistrate was yesterday to decide whether bail would be set for Yu Kikumura, who is being held on federal charges of possessing a fraudulent visa and illegally possessing unregistered firearms, the explosives.

Kikumura also has ties with the Red Army, according to the Kyodo news service. It said his arrest had raised suspicions that the Red Army might be planning attacks during the summit of leaders of advanced industrial nations on June 19 in Toronto.

Fingers have initially been pointed at Libya, since Thursday marked the second anniversary of the US bombing of Tripoli. Dr Romano Argento of Digos, the Italian counter intelligence service, said Mr Okudaira, aged 39, was seen near the United Services Organization Club in Naples before the explosion.

Continued on page 24, col 8

Links with 'Jackal' revealed

On Monday The Times introduces STOCKWATCH - the most advanced financial information phoneline service in Britain. STOCKWATCH is also the most comprehensive service available, with instant access to more than 10,000 investment prices - more than twice the number offered by any existing service.

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Yesterday's winner, page 3

Portfolio list, page 29

TOURNAMENT OF THE MIND

Last round of the individual final: page 9.

Next Monday: the schools' final begins

Chrysalis fall

Chrysalis, the record company whose artists include the Housemartins and Billy Idol, suffered a drop in pretax profits during the first half of the year.

Page 25

Jones top man

Hugh Jones, of Britain, and Ingrid Kristiansen, of Norway, are favoured to be the first man and woman home in tomorrow's Mars London Marathon.

Page 40

Cricket starts

The English first-class cricket season opens at Lord's today with the three-day match between MCC and last year's county champions, Nottinghamshire.

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Tax tip

Inheritance Tax planning is still vital even after the Budget changes.

Family Money, pages 30-35

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Benefit spread through the regions

Unemployment falls again

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

Unemployment fell in March for the 20th month in succession, with the total out of work down by 73,348 to 2,592,121, or 9.3 per cent of the working population.

Seasonally-adjusted and excluding school leavers, the fall was about 27,800 to 2.5 million, the smallest since last April.

The average monthly fall during the first quarter this year was 36,400 compared with 32,800 and 50,000 in each of the two previous quarters.

The numbers out of work fell in every region. But the number of job vacancies at Jobcentres fell for the fourth month running, though the total is still higher than a year ago at a seasonally-adjusted 245,500.

Jobs were created at a rapid rate last year with an increase in the final quarter of 146,000 and 504,000 for the year. About half were full-time and half part-time.

The fall in unemployment last year occurred in spite of a rapid increase in the civilian labour force of 426,000, more than four times the increase of the previous year.

This year there is expected to be another increase of about 377,000, but next year the increase is expected to be less than half that.

The number of working days lost in disputes jumped to 660,000 in February reflecting the strikes at Ford, British Coal, the ferries and the Health Service. But the total loss is lower than the 3.27 million lost in the previous 12 months.

Other figures released yesterday showed a rise in inflation and a fall in production. The consumer price index rose 0.4 per cent in March, a higher figure than expected, taking the inflation rate up from 3.3 per cent to 3.5 per cent.

Industrial production dropped sharply in February with manufacturing down by 3 per cent but there is little sign of a slowdown in earnings where the underlying rate of increase in February was unchanged at 8 1/2 per cent.

Markets were steadier yesterday after Thursday's turmoil in the wake of the unexpectedly bad US trade figures. Further central bank intervention kept the dollar stable but the pound surged again, closing in London more than a cent up at \$1.8880. The effective sterling rate was 78.3, up 0.4.

On the stock market share prices dropped at the opening, with the FT-SE index starting the day 24 points down.

Rangers pair fined for fracas on pitch

By Kerry Gill

Two international footballers were last night found guilty of conducting themselves in a disorderly manner and committing a breach of the peace at the Rangers-Celtic match at Ibrox Stadium last October.

Terry Butcher, aged 29, the Rangers captain and an England international, was fined £250, and Chris Woods, aged 28, the Rangers goalkeeper, was fined £500 by Sheriff Archibald McKay at Glasgow Sheriff Court.

The four-day trial was seen as a test case of violence on the football pitch.

Two other players involved in a goalmouth fracas on October 17 during the "Old Firm" match were cleared. Frank McAvennie, aged 28, the Celtic striker, was found not guilty and the case against Graham Roberts, aged 28, the Rangers defender, was found not proven.

Beauty parade and mini-skirts in Gorky Park

From Christopher Walker Moscow

Undeterred by the expected wrath of Western feminists, the Soviet authorities last night launched the first beauty contest ever held in Moscow, the start of a process which is eventually expected to lead to the first Soviet entrant to lead to the Miss World contest.

More than 500 women have entered for "Moscow Beauty 88" which is being run along Western lines, complete with sponsors, including a West German fashion magazine and a swimsuit parade. The June final will be judged by a predominantly male panel of Soviet personalities.

The decision to stage such a contest is directly attributed by the organizers to Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's reform drive and to the Kremlin's attempt to update the dowdy image of Soviet women, a process started by Mrs Raisa Gorbachev's high-profile trips to the West.

The chairman of the organizers, Mr Gennady Demicheskoy, told The Times: "The main organizational problem, which held everything up, was simply to make people believe that such a contest could take place in Moscow. Once we had succeeded with that, everything went smoothly."

As the first contestants took the stage in a seedy conference hall overlooking Gorky Park, it was clear there is no lack of enthusiasm. More than 500 women between the ages of 17 and 27 have already filled in entry forms and hundreds more are expected to arrive as the nightly heats take place.

"All the Soviet women's groups are fully behind this contest. We have not had a single objection and none of the opposition we have read about from feminists in the West," explained Miss Marina Barusnikova, another member of the organizing committee. "This is causing a lot of excitement. A nationwide contest will be held later in the year."

Some of the first contestants wore provocative, tight-fitting black leather mini-skirts and others demure dresses which their mothers had made for them. As well as striking looks, there were some formidable academic qualifications on display and some refreshing answers to questions as banal as any of those put by a compère in the Albert Hall.

The competitors, some of whom were asked to sing and others to parade under arc lights to old Simon and Garfunkel tunes played on tinny disco equipment, will have to attend a fancy-dress ball in the second round of the competition and then step into swimsuits for the final, which will be held in Moscow's Luzhniki Stadium.

First prize in the Moscow contest will include a fur and an all-expenses trip abroad.

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Kenneth Williams is found dead

Kenneth Williams, the star of Carry On films who made his name on Tony Hancock's radio comedies, was found dead at his London home yesterday. He was 62.

Mr Michael Anderson, the actor's agent, said that it was believed he had died of natural causes. On Thursday Mr Williams had been told that he would need emergency surgery for a gastric ulcer. Kenneth Williams appeared in 22 Carry On films; on radio he was an unstoppable winner of *Just A Minute*, and he was a chat show regular for 20 years.

Obituary, page 12

Town's 'spy' cameras

West Midlands police have been given approval for a scheme to install four surveillance video cameras in Wolverhampton town centre. The £40,000 project, approved by Wolverhampton City Council, is believed to be the first of its kind in Britain. Pictures will be relayed 24 hours a day to the town's main police station. The cameras were requested by police chiefs who wanted early warning of outbreaks of trouble involving gangs of youths. The Black Community Action Group said the cameras would be "a further erosion of civil liberties in our town".

Four on drug charges

Four men arrested during police raids on a drinking club in Clapton, north-east London, were allowed bail by magistrates at Highbury, north London, yesterday. They were Enrol Codling, of Darent Road, Stoke Newington, north-east London, accused of possessing cocaine and cannabis with intent to supply; Lincoln Mullings, of Thesiger Road, Penze, south London, accused of possessing cannabis with intent to supply; Winston Thompson, of Maury Road, Stoke Newington, accused of possessing and supplying cocaine; and Romeo Valentino, of Culverden Road, Balham, south London, accused of supplying and possessing cannabis.

Seven held over PC

Detectives were yesterday questioning seven people after PC Frank Mason, aged 27, was shot dead on Thursday as he tried to intervene during a bank robbery in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire. Police denied reports that the robbery was witnessed by detectives or that the gang were under surveillance at the time. Armed robbers struck again on the outskirts of the town yesterday when a gang ambushed a security van, but failed to take any cash. The guards were bundled into a van and left unharmed at Kings Langley, Buckinghamshire.

Killer shoots himself

The divorced mother of three teenage girls was shot dead by her boy friend yesterday before he killed himself. The girls fled from their home in Gageston Road, Leatherhead, Surrey, after Bob Todd, aged 30, fired a 12-bore shotgun as he argued with Sonia Hazelton, a computer operator. One daughter telephoned for the police from a neighbour's house but then two more shots were heard. Marksman surrounded the property and after two hours broke in to find the bodies in a locked bedroom. Police investigating the incident last night were treating it as a murder and suicide.

Passport concession

Eight countries are to allow British visitors to use out-of-date passports to beat a backlog of new applications. The Home Office is seeking similar agreements with other countries. There is a delay of 56 working days at the London passport office at Ferry France for a postal application. The eight countries will treat as valid passports which have expired within the past five years. The US will accept out-of-date passports until June 15. The agreements will run until September 30 for Hong Kong, Antigua and Barbados, Belgium, Luxembourg, The Netherlands and Yugoslavia.

Aids threat to stores

An unemployed man yesterday admitted attempting to blackmail Sainsbury's by threatening to contaminate the supermarket company's meat products with the Aids virus. Mr Justice Rousier adjourned the case at the Central Criminal Court, saying he needed further reports on Arthur Adams, of Axminster Close, Hull, Humberstone, in view of the "unusual and grave" circumstances of the case. Mr Adams admitted making an unwarranted demand with menaces for £75,000. He was remanded on unconditional bail for six weeks.

Soviet player resigns after Nunn whirlwind

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

A brilliant win by Dr John Nunn, of England, over the former world champion, Mikhail Tal, was the highlight of round 11 of the Swift World Chess Cup in Brussels.

Nunn launched a whirlwind attack, pinning down his Soviet opponent's King.

With a string of sacrifices, Nunn forced Tal to resign. Results of round 11: Belyavsky beat Winants; Timman lost to Portisch; Nunn beat Tal; Sokolov drew with Nogueiras; Ljubojevic adjourned against Salov; Speelman drew with Andersson; Nikolic drew with Karpov; Korchnoi lost to Sax.

The moves of Nunn, playing white, against Tal were:

1 e4	c5	11 Bb5+	Ka7
2 d4	d5	12 0-0	cd4
3 Nc2	de4	13 cd4	Nf5
4 Nxe4	Nd7	14 Bc3	Nd6
5 Ng5	Nd6	15 f3	Bd5
6 Nf3	e6	16 dxe5	Oxe5
7 Ne5	Nd6	17 Qd3	Qd5
8 Bc3	Bd5	18 Qc3+	Kd8
9 c3	Qc7	19 Rd1	Bd7
10 Qe2	c5	20 Bxf7	

Hurd to launch crackdown on charity fraud

By Sheila Gann and David Sapsted

Tough policing powers to control the £12.6 billion a year charity business will be proposed early next year in a government White Paper.

It will suggest giving the Charity Commission more authority to deal with fraud and subject Britain's 157,000 registered charities to much tighter scrutiny.

The proposals are likely to include new rules requiring annual accounts from all charities and to debar certain people, such as discharged bankrupts and those with a criminal record, from controlling charitable funds.

Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, plans to introduce a Bill later this Parliament - the first reform of charity law for 27 years - when he has decided how much control to impose.

The move is the culmination of

months of unremitting criticism of the commission. The Commons public accounts committee accused it last February of failing to protect the public from the risk of "fraud, abuse and maladministration".

Mr Hurd hopes to achieve a balance, retaining public confidence in charities while not creating an expensive and bureaucratic monster to oversee their work.

The White Paper is expected to echo many of the recommendations of Sir Philip Woodfield's scrutiny, *The Supervision of Charities*, published last summer.

The scrutiny, and numerous other reports, said that the growing charity industry is rife with fraud because of the limited powers and capacity of the Charity Commission.

Steps are already under way within the commission to computerize records and devote more time

to investigating fraud. But many of the recommendations of the scrutiny will need legislation.

It is understood the Government will want the charities to pay fees to finance the strengthened commission, which will bring protests from charities wanting to guarantee that most of their donations go to the needy rather than on administration.

All charities with an income of more than £1,000 a year are likely to be required to register with the commission so that their accounts and activities can be properly watched.

It admitted last year that thousands of charities were refusing to submit their accounts for scrutiny, as they are obliged to under law, and it has disclosed that only 13 of its 330 staff in London and Liverpool are engaged in investigative work.

Criticism of the commission

heightened earlier this year. Sir Patrick Mayhew, Attorney General, announced the Government was dropping its appeal against the commission's decision not to remove the Moonies' charitable status because of limitations on the commission's legal powers.

It was also disclosed that the commissioners had granted charitable status to a left-wing bookshop in Wood Green, north London, allegedly selling children's books encouraging homosexuality and anarchy.

The Public accounts committee accused the commission of a widespread failure to control charity fraud. It said the commission was "too complacent" about tackling fraud; said the register of charities was out of date and unreliable; and rejected the commission's long-standing complaint that these and

other failings were caused by a lack of resources.

Sir Philip Woodfield's report to the Government last year recommended that the commission's role be changed to give it powers to act as a supervisor, particularly when it came to enforcing the submission of accounts.

His proposals came after the National Audit Office reported that the work of Scotland Yard's charity fraud squad was being hampered by the commission's unreliable or non-existent records. "The poor level of submission of charity accounts and limited scrutiny undermine effective monitoring and control", the office said.

Charities, 4,000 new ones registering each year, get tax benefits estimated at £2.5 billion a year and the Inland Revenue has put the amount of fraud at £100 million annually.

British companies fight French for nuclear subs deal

By Peter Daveport

Senior officials of 20 British companies begin an intensive sales drive in Canada today to try to beat the French to a £3 billion nuclear submarine deal.

They have formed a consortium, headed by Vickers Shipbuilding and Engineering Ltd (VSEL), to persuade Canadian politicians and industrialists to come down in favour of the British Trafalgar class vessel, the latest of which, HMS Talent, was launched yesterday.

At stake is the largest export contract on offer for nuclear-powered submarines.

Twenty-four representatives of the Trafalgar Consortium, which includes Rolls-Royce, GEC and other leading British companies, fly to Toronto today.

On Monday they begin the first of their meetings which will take them to 10 provinces for negotiations with provincial prime ministers in Canada. They are also to meet leading industrialists and trade unionists over the next two weeks.

Under Canadian law, every provincial prime minister has an equal vote on government decisions and there is a requirement in law for all big industrial contracts to take into account regional development.

The British delegation hopes to convince the Canadians that the decision to choose the Trafalgar class submarine will mean a valuable transfer of technology, thousands of new jobs in Canadian high-tech companies as well as in shipbuilding.

Under the proposal, the first

boat would be built at the VSEL yard at Barrow-in-Furness in Cumbria with a high degree of Canadian involvement. The rest - and there could be up to a total of 12 - would be built under licence in Canada with British assistance.

Negotiations between Canada, the UK and France have been going on for about two and a half years. Initially, the Canadian navy merely wanted to replace its existing small fleet of diesel-electric powered submarines with similar vessels.

A year ago, however, after a wide-ranging defence review and a desire to expand its maritime role in protecting Nato's northern flank, the Canadian navy decided to go for nuclear-powered vessels instead, which could operate under the thick Arctic ice-pack where Soviet submarines are known to patrol.

In November HMS Torbay, the last Trafalgar class boat to go into service with the Royal Navy, visited Halifax, Nova Scotia, and took senior Canadian officials and naval personnel to sea on trials. They were said to have been highly impressed and there are already Canadian officers serving on similar vessels in the Royal Navy.

The French are offering a variation of their Rubis-class submarine, called Amethyste. Although they are keeping their costs secret they are understood to be claiming that theirs is a cheaper package.

However officials at VSEL pointed out yesterday that without extensive modification the French vessel did not

possess the vital ice-breaking capacity and that it was also 55 feet shorter than Canadian specifications.

The British team touring Canada will be headed by Mr Frank Noah, VSEL's commercial director, and Mr Jack Daniel, its Canadian project director.

Canadian industrialists and their naval attaché in London were present at yesterday's launch ceremony performed by the Princess Royal.

The ceremony went smoothly and was gratefully welcomed by VSEL officials who are still smug from revelations earlier in the week that they had managed to somehow weld on a section of HMS Talent's sister ship, HMS Triumph, upside down.

Dr Rodney Leach, VSEL's chief executive and managing director, said that the company had received repeated, high-level requests from France for assistance in applying its construction methods to their nuclear submarine building programme.

He said that the British bid for the Canadian contract was fully backed by the Government and the Ministry of Defence and he hoped too that the Commonwealth link would be in their favour.

The consortium was convinced of the quality of the product it was offering the Canadians, and Dr Leach said he was "persistently hopeful" of securing the contract.

A decision by Canada is expected in June or July.

Submarine launched, page 24



Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Employment, yesterday with a graph showing the twenty successive monthly falls in unemployment (Photograph: Alan Weller).

Assembly line workers at Jaguar defy union

By Craig Seton

A section of the 4,000 assembly line workforce at Jaguar yesterday staged a last-minute rebellion against a revised productivity offer that the company hoped would end the threat of a strike next week.

The leaders of up to 800 assembly line staff at the Browns Lane plant in Coventry defied union leaders to insist that their vote in a ballot on the new offer should be

counted separately from the rest of the workforce.

Union sources said that men on two production lines feared they would bear the brunt of the company's plans to meet worldwide demand for Jaguar cars by increasing output by 92 cars a week. They wanted a separate opportunity to vote, although their votes would still be included in the plant-wide ballot result.

Whips confident poll tax vote is safe

By Sheila Gann, Political Staff

Three Cabinet Ministers attempted to discredit the "Mates amendment" for toning down the poll tax proposals last night, although the Government is now confident of surviving a rebellion by Conservative MPs.

Government Whips believe the last minute concession granted by Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Secretary of State for the Environment, which makes one million more people eligible for rebate, will win them the crucial vote on Monday in the Commons.

A senior Government source predicted that between 20 and 30 Conservative MPs will still revolt and support Mr Michael Mates's amendment.

for a banded community charge. But this would give the Government a reasonable majority of around the same number.

Mr Mates and his colleagues who co-signed his amendment remained determined yesterday to press ahead, arguing that their proposals would mitigate the worst aspects of the reform.

However, some former supporters of the amendment have admitted Mr Ridley's concession has satisfied them. Mr Harry Bellingham, Conservative MP for North West Norfolk, said: "The time has now come to call it a day and support the Government".

Mr John Major, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, condemned the banded community charge proposal, relating the poll tax to people's ability to pay, as creating a "deeper poverty trap than ever before".

Speaking in Peterborough last night, he said the proposal had "deep and damaging flaws that would introduce a whole range of unfairnesses and anomalies that could not be defended".

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, and Mr Paul Channon, the Secretary of State for Transport, also made speeches last night warning of the anomalies of the banded community charge.

Mr Hurd told his constituency association in Witney, Oxford, that banding would bring all the disadvantages of a local income tax.

"It would also create a whole new series of arbitrary earnings traps. A pay rise of £1 a year could take someone into a new community charge band and mean an extra bill of as much as £1,000 a year."

Mr Channon said allegations that the community charge did not recognize people's ability to pay were "simply not true".

Union chiefs support Kinnock leadership

By Roland Radd

The Labour leadership received an important boost yesterday when leaders of Britain's third-largest trade union, the GMB general union, formally endorsed Mr Neil Kinnock and Mr Roy Hattersley for the leadership and deputy-leadership of the party.

The GMB executive, which wields a block vote of 650,000 at the Labour conference, will recommend support for the present leadership.

Mr John Edmonds, general secretary, said: "The combined effects of the Budget, the poll tax, cuts in social security and the National Health Ser-

vice will be devastating".

His comments were echoed by Mr Alan Tiffin, general secretary of the Union of Communication Workers, who said yesterday: "The election is a shocking waste of Labour Party finances at a time when every penny should be spent on campaigning against the Government."

Miss Marjorie Mowlem, MP for Redcar, and Mr Paul Flynn, MP for Newport West, have been appointed to the Labour party's teams led by Mr Kevin McNamara and Mr Alan Williams in Northern Ireland and Welsh affairs respectively.

BP explains workings of petrol name game

By David Sapsted

British Petroleum yesterday tried to explain to staff at 2,000 BP petrol stations why two thirds of the brands they sell actually come from Shell, Esso, Texaco or Mobil.

The move followed last week's admissions by the country's oil companies, giving evidence to the Commons select committee on trade and industry, that they swapped huge volumes of fuel.

BP Oil produced 3,000 leaflets for forecourt attendants so that they could explain to drivers why the fuel they were buying probably came from somebody else's refinery.

Called *Exchanges...The Great Petrol Name Game*, the pamphlet sets out how exchanges save the customer at

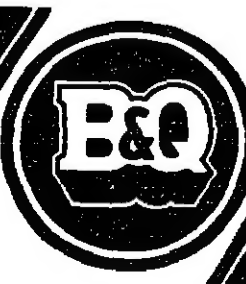
least £50 million a year. BP said: "The leaflet will enable our staff to explain the advantages of exchanges which have, after all, been a fundamental part of the oil industry for at least 40 years."

It was far cheaper to buy standard fuel in the South-east from one of the other large companies than to transport it from BP's own refinery in

But if BP might turn out to be Shell, or Shell turn out to be Texaco, then why do the oil companies spend millions on advertising each year trying to establish brand loyalties?

BP said: "Fuel is only one part of the service we offer. We are currently spending hundreds of thousands of pounds improving our petrol stations."

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CUNARD

Policeman arrested during inquiry into car park axe killing

By Michael Horswell

A police officer who was arrested during an investigation into the murder of a private detective had earlier spent four days on the inquiry team.

In that time he had taken a statement from a friend of his, the partner of the murdered man, who was also suspected by police of playing a part in the killing. He was also said to have made a "glaring error" about the movements of the suspect.

Det Supt Douglas Campbell, the officer leading the murder inquiry, told an inquest yesterday that the officer, Detective Sergeant Sidney Fillery, was taken off the squad but may have hampered inquiries during the early stages.

The story of the police investigation into the murder of Daniel Morgan, a private detective, who was found with an axe embedded in his skull last year, was told on the fifth day of an inquest at Southwark coroner's court, south London.

The jury has been told that Mr John Rees, aged 32, the dead man's partner, was arrested by murder squad detectives but released without charge. He will give evidence next week.

The inquest has heard an allegation that Mr Rees, aged 32, boasted of making arrangements with police contacts to have Mr Morgan, aged 37, murdered.

Det Sergeant Fillery, who left the police force last month and now works with Mr Rees at Southern Investigations, where Mr Morgan was one of Rees's partner, was one of

three officers arrested by murder squad detectives but later released.

The jury has been told that the three policemen "moonlighted" for Mr Rees on a security contract with a firm of car auctioneers. Mr Rees was allegedly robbed of £18,000 while carrying the firm's takings.

Mr Campbell said: "It might have been that Det Sergeant Fillery could have kept Mr Rees abreast of the investigation. I thought he was too close to John Rees and four days after the murder I called him in. But he said he felt he was too close and felt he was losing a relationship with a friend."

The murder inquiry had ruled out the possibility of a gangland killing, he added.

Mr Julian Nutter, representing Mr Rees, asked whether some of the men named during the inquest had gangland connections. Mr Campbell agreed they had.

Detectives had also examined a suggestion that Mr Morgan had uncovered allegations of police corruption which he intended to sell to a newspaper, he said.

"It was ludicrous, but he was alleged to have been offered £250,000 for the story. We looked in all directions to try and substantiate it, but couldn't," Mr Campbell said.

Later, the brother of the murdered man accused Mr Rees of being party to the murder.

Mr Alistair Morgan told the inquest that his "gut reaction" to circumstantial evidence im-

plicated Mr Rees, his brother's partner at Southern Investigations, a detective agency in south London.

Mr Morgan said: "To be blunt, I believe that the conversations I had with John Rees indicate certain things. I believe he was guilty of being party to it."

He alleged that Mr Rees claimed Daniel Morgan was interested only in women and that a jealous husband was responsible for the killing in the car park of the Golden Lion pub, Sydenham, south-east London, in March last year.

Mr Morgan also accused Mr Rees of making derogatory remarks about the character of detectives investigating the killing.

Mr Campbell told the jury of five telephone calls made or received by Mr Rees in his car in the 20-minute period after he left the Golden Lion where he had had a meeting with his partner immediately before the murder.

One incoming call, the origin of which police were unable to confirm, lasted 12 minutes and was made, according to an alleged statement by Mr Rees, by his wife.

But, Mr Campbell said, when police questioned Mr Rees's wife, Sharon, later about telephone calls between her and her husband, she made no mention of it.

Sir Montague Levine, the coroner, has ordered the arrest of Mrs Rees after she failed to attend to give evidence.

The inquest resumes on Monday.

A giggle of clowns swamps the seaside

هكزامن الناحيل



Clopette and Cloppa, (Kriz Middleton, aged 20, and Jeremy Dallyn, aged 27), at Bognor Regis (Photograph: Tim Bishop).

By Ronald Faux

"Clowning", the great late Albertini once declared, "is an extremely serious business". His words will echo around Bognor Regis during the next two days when more than 200 clowns from Britain, the Continent and the United States put on their motley baggy trousers and extraordinary boots and demonstrate to one another the latest tricks of their ancient trade.

The fourth International Clowns' Convention (the collective name is a giggle but 200 amount to an uproar) opened yesterday with the aficionados of the well-judged custard pie, the strategically placed banana skin and the nicely aimed bag of flour in excellent heart.

Clowning, according to Leon of the red nose, ginger wig and vast flat feet, has rarely enjoyed such popularity. "I think audiences have grown tired of static comedians of the stand-up variety. They

want to see a bit of action and by heavens we give it to them." Leon's specialty is pyrotechnics, in particular a car that glows up into a heap of smoking component parts. Perzo, a sad-faced individual, follows the same line of humour with a set of exploding bagpipes. He is working on a musical routine involving a microphone which develops a will of its own. "It's quite high-tech, has some sophisticated radio control devices and tremendous explosions. Even so the old jokes with the dry water bucket and unbreakable eggs probably get just as many laughs."

A Swedish clown on his way from the airport telephoned the convention headquarters to say that he was lost. "Where are you?" the organizer asked. "That's what I'm phoning you to find out."

What turns people into clowns, according to Leon, is a badly concealed streak of anarchy lying too close to the

surface of someone's nature. "Only a quarter of our members are full time; the rest come from some surprising walks of life. We've got a funeral director, an assistant prison governor, a fireman, two policemen, several Civil Servants and a vicar. They are all anarchists under the skin. They want to badger bureaucracy".

Between entertainments at the convention the clowns will discuss their stagecraft. There will be symposia on how to crash bodily to the ground without breaking anything, how to make routines even more comic and different styles of humour.

It is not all mechanically created laughter. "You have to stay very light on your feet, mentally agile like those great clowns the Crazy Gang. A lot of the best moments are ad lib. There's a thin line between making people laugh and feeling embarrassed", one red-nosed specialist of the spoken joke said.

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

Mr John Rainsford last night toasted his second Portfolio competition windfall with his favourite claret and set himself a target of a third win.

"There is nothing quite like perseverance. Other people, I understand, have won three times. Why shouldn't I?" he said.

Mr Rainsford, aged 57, a retired insurance company executive, of Beam End, Chilworth, Beam, Cornwall, won £4,000 as a daily winner. His previous shared win brought him £1,000.

King's Cross paint 'cleared'

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

A special ceiling paint, which had been suspected of being a significant factor in the rapid spread of the fire at King's Cross Underground station last November, was provisionally cleared of responsibility yesterday.

Mr Desmond Fennell, QC, who is conducting the inquiry into the disaster which killed 31 people, spoke of the "finger of blame" which had been pointing at the manufacturers of the paint.

He said he had reached "the clear conclusion" that the paint on the ceiling of the escalator shaft was not a substantial cause of the flash-over which sent flames shooting from the escalator shaft to the ticket hall.

Mr Fennell emphasized that

his conclusion was provisional, pending the final inquiry report.

The paint, a coating system called B2, was manufactured exclusively for London Regional Transport by Prodonite, a company based at Wednesbury, West Midlands. It has been used in about a dozen central London Underground stations.

One of the tasks of scientists investigating the fire was to establish why it was that the fire should have moved from the Piccadilly Line escalator shaft, where it started, into the ticket hall, with such rapidity.

Two scientists consulted by London Underground told the inquiry they believed the paint was a substantial cause. But London Regional Transport

said it did not put forward that view as representing corporate opinion.

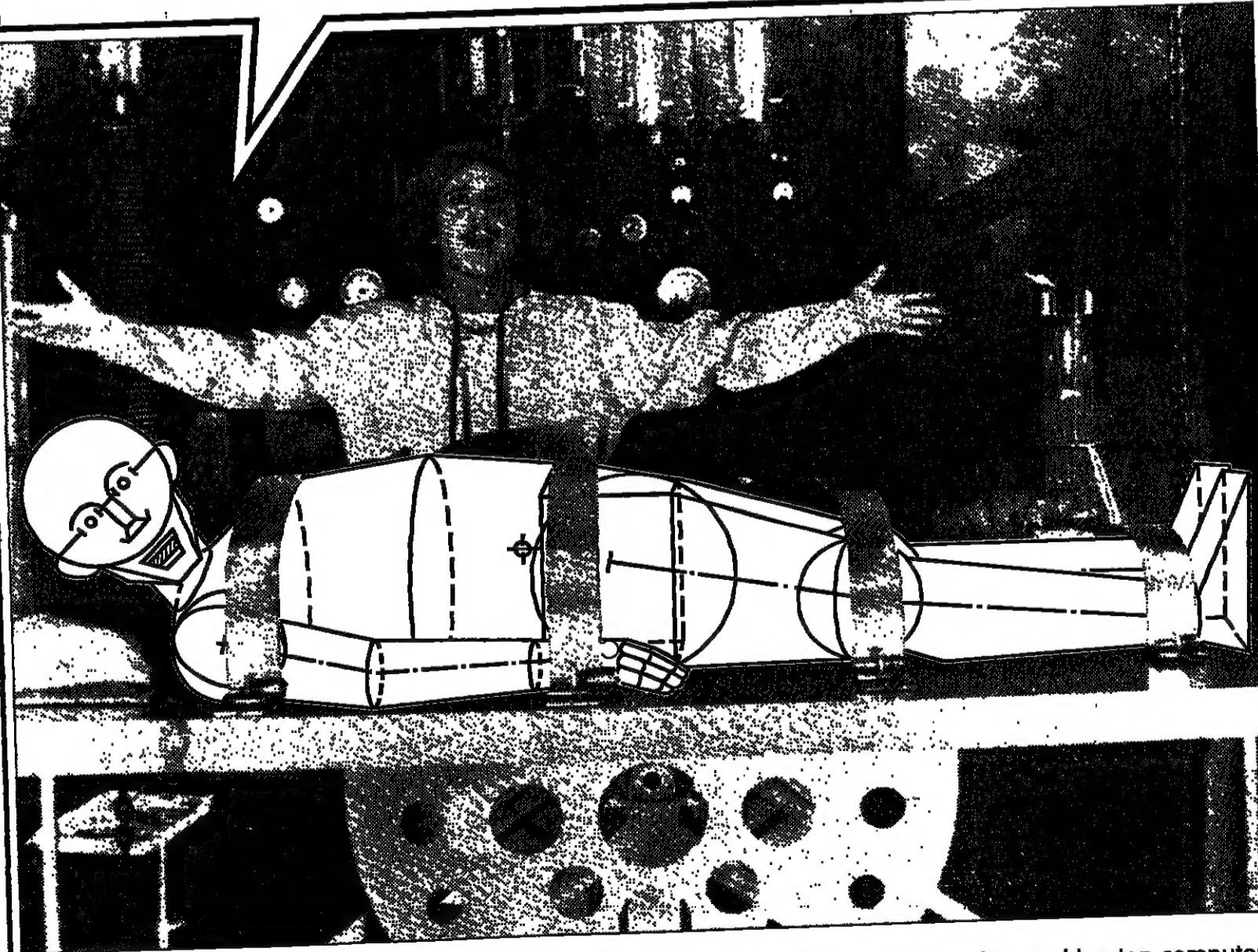
Other scientific evidence from a team led by Mr Keith Moodie, of the Health and Safety Executive's explosion and flame laboratory, suggested the paint had played a subsidiary role in the spread of the fire.

Mr Fennell said "rumours started and suggestions began to be made" soon after the fire that paint had been responsible in some way.

He accepted it was a cardinal principle that those to whom the finger of blame had been pointed should be acquitted as soon as possible, "consistent with proper and not hurried judgement".

The inquiry continues.

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Solicitor 'knew of cash theft'

A solicitor admitted to detectives that he used large sums of cash from the £26 million Brink's Mat robbery to buy property, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Michael Relton, aged 48, allegedly told police that he realized the money - including £2.3 million in a Swiss account - must have come from the sale of the bullion as it was too much to be accounted for as undeclared tax.

In another interview Mr Relton, withdrew his admission, Mr Nicholas Purnell, for the prosecution, said.

In a further interview, in the presence of his solicitor, Mr Relton allegedly told police he realized he was involved with Brink's Mat money.

He described forming companies and cashing in on what he described as "boom time" in London docklands property.

Mr Relton, of Carlisle Place, Westminster, central London, is on trial with eight others accused of conspiracy to handle stolen goods. All deny the charges.

The trial continues.

Pollution and diet 'are key to illness'

By John Young

More attention to illnesses caused by what people eat and where they live and work would end the crisis in the health service and save billions of pounds, it was said yesterday.

The Environmental Medicine Foundation, which was established in January 1985 to promote and encourage research into the effects of the environment on health, announced the endowment of the world's first professional chair in the subject, based at the Robert's Institute, at the University of Surrey.

The first incumbent will be Dr William Rea, a leading American surgeon and a pioneer in cardiac bypass and heart transplant surgery, who is at present Director of the Dallas Environmental Control Unit, and Chief of Surgery at the Brookhaven Medical Centre.

The Foundation claims that many illnesses such as arthritis, migraine, asthma, eczema, rhinitis, irritable bowel syndrome, hyperactivity and behaviour disorders can be attributed to environmental

factors. They include chemical pollution, electromagnetic fields from high frequency cables, computer visual display units, and allergies to pesticides, plastics, dust and pollen, bacteria, parasites, fungi and foods.

The object of environmental medicine is to study the impact of these factors on human health.

Growing evidence has emerged of widespread food and chemical sensitivity, allergy and the so-called "sick building syndrome", but research to date has been very limited. Dr Rea said yesterday that almost everyone was born with one or more genetic defects, which were triggered by environmental factors. In the polluted technological environment in which we lived, those factors were becoming increasingly difficult to avoid.

The main sources of environmentally induced diseases lay in the air we breathed and the food and drink we consumed, but pollution could also be absorbed through skin contact.

Consumer spending

Boom in luxuries predicted

By Rosemary Unsworth, Retail Affairs Correspondent

Holiday companies, car manufacturers, luxury goods retailers and the housing market are the most likely beneficiaries of the boost in consumer spending triggered by Budget tax cuts and the fall in mortgage interest rates.

The increase in spending power has been strengthened by the recent fall of 0.5 per cent in the mortgage rate.

Britain's economists believe that much of the extra cash will be channelled into housing and the luxury end of the retail sector. Since 1980 Britons have become a nation of spenders rather than savers because of capital gains in the housing and stock markets.

Consumer credit is already at record levels, at more than

£400 per person, and real incomes are expected to rise by about 3 per cent this year - all indicators of the nation's increased spending capacity.

Mr Peter Spencer, of Credit Suisse First Boston, said: "The outlook for consumer spending depends critically on the housing market. Another strong surge in house prices this year would stimulate the growth in spending."

He said that house price inflation, forecast by some at 18 per cent this year, would generate £120 billion of gains and thus increase spending. The housing market remains the main source of wealth.

Mr Christopher Pinker, UK economist at Phillips & Drew, pointed out that the mortgage

rate cut adds only about 40p a week to the average weekly income.

"But in the south-east, where mortgages are much higher than in the rest of the country, there will be more benefit to homeowners. These households tend to be the younger members of the population in the early stage of a mortgage and who tend to spend more on leisure and travel," he said.

He is less optimistic about the prospects for part of the retail sector such as electronics, traditionally considered a recipient of consumer confidence. "After all, most people have now got videos, hi-fis and televisions, so look out for people buying speedboats and that kind of luxury item".

The Design Council has launched a nationwide Year of Invention competition.

You don't have to be a bright spark to enter, just come up with a bright idea and win a monster reward.

There are four different entry categories: Individuals, Schools, Universities/Colleges and Small Businesses.

Regional judging will take place and there are prizes valued at over

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To: Toshiba Year of Invention, FREEPOST, Melksham, Wiltshire, SN12 7BR. Entries to be received at the Design Council by 17 June 1988.

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TOSHIBA YEAR OF INVENTION

Sweeping changes in Irish police after series of blunders

By John Cooney

An extensive reorganization of the operations of the Garda, the Irish Republic's police force, has been approved by Mr Gerry Collins, the minister for justice.

The shake-up comes after a series of police blunders during the recent hunt for Mr John O'Grady, the kidnapped Dublin dentist. Irish ministers were furious that the kidnapper, Dessie O'Hare, known as "the Border Fox", and his gang repeatedly evaded arrest and gave the police the slip on a number of embarrassing occasions.

Ministers were horrified to learn that senior officers in the ordinary crime sections did not know for more than a week into the hunt that the security section had confirmed that Mr O'Grady was abducted by O'Hare.

A similar breakdown in communications between the minister and senior officers was reported to have occurred last November at the start of a nationwide search for IRA arms, ammunition and explosives.

That operation succeeded in finding a number of arms dumps through the use of sophisticated scanner equipment lent by Britain.

The shortcomings highlighted in the O'Grady hunt led to an inquiry into the 11,000-strong Garda force, the structures of which have remained largely unaltered since the foundation of the Irish state in 1921.

The main change resulting from the inquiry is the decision taken by Mr Collins to ensure greater co-ordination between the force's anti-terrorist units and ordinary crime squads.

It falls short of a main recommendation made by three senior police officers that the anti-subversive Special Branch should merge with the Central Detective Unit dealing with non-terrorist crime.

That recommendation had the backing of Mr Eamonn

A code of conduct for the Royal Ulster Constabulary emphasizing the force's aim to police Northern Ireland impartially "without regard to status, sex, race, religion, political beliefs or aspirations" was published yesterday.

Government sources said that *Professional Policing Ethics* was essentially an internal RUC document but its publication is in line with official policy of seeking to win support for the force from the Roman Catholic community.

The document covers the conduct of RUC officers under a wide range of circumstances including the treatment of both the public and prisoners, the use of physical force, co-operation with officials outside the force and conduct in private life.

"In providing a fair and impartial service, the RUC recognizes and respects the validity of the different identities and traditions", the code says.

Doherty, the Garda commissioner, but was apparently blocked by the Department of Justice. Unlike the Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, who is independent of political control, the commissioner's powers are restricted by his subordination to the justice minister and his civil servants.

Political control has been tightened since the outbreak in 1969 of the present terrorist violence in Northern Ireland. Since then, there has been a rapid but uneven expansion of the force which has entered the computer age.

However, until now its management and training procedures have not been modernized, to the barely concealed annoyance of the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

The changes authorized by Mr Collins assign Garda deputy commissioners to act as "senior force managers".

Training procedures are to be revised and procedures on kidnaps and other serious

crimes updated. Although the Garda prides itself on being an unarmed police force — according to Mr Doherty, the Garda ranks second only to the Roman Catholic Church in the Irish public's esteem — it increasingly faces the dilemma of how to deal with republican terrorists.

That dilemma came to the fore during the O'Grady kidnap when O'Hare and his gang showed no hesitation in firing at Garda officers with intent to kill.

In his speech from the dock before being sentenced to 40 years imprisonment for abducting and maiming Mr O'Grady, O'Hare called on terrorists to show no mercy towards the Garda.

Two men were charged at Dublin's Special Criminal Court yesterday with kidnapping Mr John O'Grady, two days after Dessie O'Hare and four of his gang were jailed for the kidnap.

Michael Montcalm, aged 44, an engineer, from Carrigrohilly, Co Cork, and Denis Murnane, aged 39, a farmer, also from Carrigrohilly, were charged with falsely imprisoning Mr O'Grady in October last year.

Both men were remanded on their own bail of IR£1,000 each.

The IRA may be linked to a sophisticated shares swindle being investigated by Irish fraud squad detectives.

High-grade counterfeit shares certificates, which can be sold on the open market or used to raise bank loans, have netted huge sums for the swindlers.

Investigators do not know yet how much is involved but the total could reach several million pounds.

A senior source said last night in Dublin that although the fraud squad had an open mind on who was responsible, the IRA was not being ruled out.

The investigation was launched after a warning by the Dublin Stock Exchange that counterfeit shares certificates were in circulation.

First black voice on synod panel



Dr John Sentamu, a vicar in Tulse Hill, south-east London, is congratulated by his children on becoming the first black churchman elected to the standing committee of the General Synod of the Church of England. Dr Sentamu, aged 40, vicar at Holy Trinity Church, was formerly a Ugandan judge and was imprisoned by the Amin regime. (Photograph: Deszli McNeelance)

British Psychological Society

Erotic way to beat the lie detector

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The well-trained spy or criminal can beat the lie detector tests by concentrating on erotic thoughts, according to one of Britain's leading psychologists.

Professor Ray Bull, of Glasgow College of Technology, will tell a meeting of experts today that the traditional methods of positive vetting used by the security services are more likely to ferret out deception during interrogation than the polygraph machine.

Professor Bull says that the person being questioned can provoke the change in the electrical resistance of the skin measured by the lie detector by focusing his thoughts on something erotically arousing. He warns against "a rather naive trust that has grown up because an electronic machine is measuring a reaction of the body".

Professor Bull will be among scientists presenting the latest results of research into the reliance to be put on changes in

behaviour, as well as the use of the polygraph, in assessing evidence, at a special meeting of the British Psychological Society, in Leeds.

The psychologists oppose the general use of the polygraph in what is referred to as controlled questioning, in which the expert operator must gain some understanding of the individual he is questioning, for the procedure to be of use. That is because the opening question in such an interview, against which the truthfulness of later answers will be judged, needs to be unexpected and of an intimate nature that causes maximum embarrassment.

The psychologists are expected to commend the polygraph as an aid to the police in one specific form of inquiry known as the guilt-by-association test, said to be inherently more precise, which depends on questions and answers concerning details known only to the investigators and the guilty person. Such

a question might be: was the injury inflicted by a knife, hammer, screwdriver or rope? Was the crime committed on the stairs, in the bedroom, kitchen or bathroom? Similarly precise questions could be asked in security work.

New techniques to give top athletes a higher level of mental fitness are to be examined at today's session. The belief that mental training can help performance comes from work including research at Surrey University and St Mary's College, Twickenham, south-west London, in which EEG machines were used to measure the brain wave patterns of karate specialists. The recordings showed a dominant activity in the right side of the brain that decreased immediately before the throw. A study of cricketers by Dr J Graham Jones, of Loughborough University, showed how anxiety before batting could reduce the speed of response.

Euro club opens its doors

By Michael Dynes

The Euro-constituency of Oxford and Buckinghamshire yesterday became the pioneer of an initiative designed to help British business prepare for the competition expected to follow the completion of the European internal market in 1992.

Announcing the launch of the constituency's "1992 Club" in Thame, Oxfordshire, Mr James Elles became the first of Britain's 79 Euro-MPs to declare his constituency "open for business".

The 1992 Clubs, which will offer advice to the business community on the progress and impact of the EEC's single-market legislation, form the centre-piece of the European Democratic Group's internal "market awareness" campaign.

The group, composed of Conservatives in the European Parliament, plans to



establish clubs throughout the country, including constituencies held by Labour Euro-MPs.

The clubs will be self-financing through membership subscriptions, which range from £10 for individuals to £50 for larger employers.

Members will receive periodic 1992 progress reports, a three-monthly internal market newsletter and guaranteed answers to questions on how their business will be affected

by the flood of internal market legislation.

Mr Elles said that the clubs were designed to complement Britain's national 1992 awareness campaign, which will be launched on Monday by Lord Young of Grafton, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

"With nine different languages and 12 fragmented national markets, the EEC must ensure that its individual members join forces to succeed on the world stage in the 21st century."

Mr Elles said that people should not regard the 1992 campaign as the invention of politicians and bureaucrats. "The drive to break down the remaining barriers to trade is coming from concerned European industrialists, desperate to have a broader domestic market to compete on equal terms with the US and Japan", he said.

Bishops to fight for Catholic schools

Roman Catholic bishops in England and Wales disclosed yesterday how they plan to fight legislation they claim threatens the Catholic school system.

At a three-day conference in London which ended yesterday, they agreed to monitor amendments to the Education Reform Bill in the House of Lords and if necessary press for a safeguard preserving the identity of Catholic schools.

That would be in the form of an amendment to ensure that Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, arranges that "within the provision of the national curriculum there is flexibility and scope for the governors of voluntary schools to promote and develop the distinctive ethos and character of their schools".

The bishops said in a statement they feared that under the Bill they would no longer

be able to exercise their responsibility for education. "The bishop has clear and specific responsibilities in the life of the church", the statement said. "The proposals contained in the Bill deny the bishop the means needed to fulfil these responsibilities. In the Bill's provision he is viewed purely as an educational administrator."

There was an alarming trend in government policy and in public opinion towards a "culture of indifference" towards the poor and underprivileged, the Roman Catholic bishops decided yesterday.

As a first move towards a position which could eventually put the Roman Catholic Church in open conflict with government philosophy, they have commissioned a study of the underlying causes of "a society which is becoming increasingly hardened, and

dismissive of hardship". Announcing the bishops' growing anxiety about trends in society, Mr Vincent Nichols, secretary of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, said that there was "no political agenda", and in none of the discussions so far had the trend they were worried about been labelled "Thatcherism".

However, the trend was present as a pattern behind various pieces of recent government legislation.

"Such a view fails to recognize the true role of the bishop in church life."

Academics are also voicing their criticism of the Bill. A quarter of those in universities have signed a petition criticizing the Government for failing to include safeguards for the freedom of teaching and learning.

The petition, with 6,500 signatures, is to be presented to the Lords by the National Committee for University Autonomy on Tuesday, when the Bill is due to receive its second reading.

The committee, which is chaired by Professor David Martin, professor of sociology at the London School of Economics, claims that the Government's plan to abolish academic tenure for lecturers appointed or promoted after November 20, 1987, the day the Bill was published, will weaken academic freedom and reduce the universities' international competitiveness.

It says the worst lecturers will be locked into the system while the best will be discouraged from seeking promotion.

It also suggests that the best scholars will be tempted abroad.

RHS book auction pays off loan

The Royal Horticultural Society sold 30 books from its Linley Library for £98,000 yesterday at Sotheby's.

The society raised enough to pay back a loan and have funds left over.

Top Linley lot was copies 1-184 of the *Botanical Magazine*, all 161 volumes and 10,500 coloured plates, most being hand-coloured, of flora and fauna. It fetched £29,700 to the dealer Burgess Browning, against an estimate of up to £25,000.

An early nineteenth century Italian book called the *Pomona Italiana*, by Giorgio Gallesio, fetched £24,200 (es-

timated up to £16,000) to Quaritch, who clearly could not resist its fine illustrations of ripe fruit.

A third edition of Besler's *Hortus Eystettensis* fetched the highest price overall, selling within estimate, at £165,000 to Heywood Hill.

Measuring 30in by 18in, and nine inches thick, it contains pictures of flowers in the seventeenth century garden of the Bishop of Eichstätt. Its artist was Basilius Besler, a Nuremberg apothecary and botanist.

The sale total was £780,000, with 17 per cent unsold.

The largest collection of model trains to come on the market in recent years made £40,000 yesterday at auction in Dorchester, Dorset.

Public figures from industry and the world of computers were among the bidders for 33 lots from the Cross Collection, the product of a former accountant's life-long enthusiasm for trains.

The locomotives, rolling stock and track had filled several outhouses at the home of the late Mr Patrick Cross, of Ringwood, Hampshire.

Mr Guy Schwinge, of Dorchester auctioneers Henry Duke and Son, said 70 per cent of the stock had been bought by collectors.

He said: "Mrs Cross is absolutely delighted. The models are going to people who appreciate them. The sale prices were excellent."

One of Goya's most important and endearing portraits goes on show at the National Gallery from today.

It is his third portrait of the Countess of Chinchon, a 20-year-old beauty in 1800 and niece of Charles III. Goya had painted two others of her when she was a child.

The artist shows a clear knowledge of the sitter's predicament at the time, as a neglected wife of the Spanish king's chief minister, but heavily pregnant. He depicts her wearing pale, delicate silks, with a sheaf of corn in her hair (symbolizing fertility), and a distended abdomen.

Sotheby's held a successful sale of contemporary art in Madrid on Thursday, totalling £500,000, with only one out of 64 paintings unsold.

A 1922 Picasso entitled "Poire verte et Citron" fetched top price of £131,764.

Crown courts overloaded, study says

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Crown courts are being overloaded with cases because defendants believe jury trial gives them a better chance of acquittal and because magistrates think they do not have power to handle many of the cases, according to research published today by the Home Office.

It says that the workload of the crown courts is a key issue because of its direct impact on the size of the prison population.

The research shows that where cases can be tried in either court, defendants opt to be tried by jury in 60 per cent of cases.

That is because they saw the crown court as offering a better chance of acquittal: in their view that outweighed "the risk of a more severe sentence if convicted".

That is borne out by statistics: among those pleading not guilty to all charges in the study, 66 per cent at the crown court were acquitted, compared with 45 per cent at summary trial.

When the cases are heard, only a minority pleads not guilty, the research shows. Most intend to plead not guilty at jury trial but change their plea when they know the

strength of the case against them.

The other 40 per cent of "triable either way" (in either court) cases are sent to the crown court because magistrates decline to hear them, believing them unsuitable for summary trial. That decision was generally made on the basis of prosecution representations, the research shows.

The study accepts some cases would not be suitable for summary trial. However, it points out that on the basis of Home Office statistics 55 per cent of those convicted at the crown court in either way

cases receive a sentence within the powers of magistrates.

It concludes that although magistrates may commit cases for other reasons, there must be scope for reducing the volume of either-way cases committed at the bench's discretion.

The study, by the Home Office Research and Planning Unit, comes when more cases which could be heard by jury or magistrates are committed to the crown court.

Triable-either way cases: crown court or magistrates' court? Home Office Research Study 98 (Stationery Office, £4.50).

Rhyme and riches in Ancient Rome

By Philip Howard, Literary Editor

Even poets have to earn their living. In a paper to the Classical Association at Bristol University yesterday Mr Ian DuQuesnay, of Jesus College, Cambridge, showed how the Roman poets existed.

Historians increasingly see patronage as the cement of Roman society. It was a pyramid with the Princes at the top, the nobles in the middle and the lower orders at the bottom.

The obligations of a relationship between patron and client were binding, disparate, reciprocal, and continuing. A poet's patron provided access to an audience, help with the

acquisition and dissemination of books, and money.

In return a poet offered his patron fame longer lasting than bronze. Poets could switch patrons. But once the relationship was formed, not to fulfil one's *fides* would have been ingratus.

It could be a profitable connection. Virgil, whose final patron for the *Aeneid* was the emperor himself, left 10 times as much as the property qualification for a senator; the poet was a millionaire.

If one accepts this view of patronage, it rules out many subversive interpretations of irony and other voices in

poetry. The poet-client could not kick his publisher in the teeth in public.

It may also explain the troublesome ending of the *Aeneid* when Aeneas spares the wounded Turnus who has begged for mercy. This now looks like a reference to the boast by Virgil's patron that he had spared every Roman life that asked for it, except for just one group, the tyrannicides of Julius Caesar.

Professor Jan Bremser, of Utrecht University, took an historian's look at the rise of Christianity, in particular through documents of the acts of the early Christian martyrs.

These are usually pastoral or apologetic propaganda; but one can still discern truth and trends. He showed how Christianity succeeded because it was the cult that adapted itself best to the dominant ideas of its time.

There was a strong subversive relationship to the God with Isis. At a time of the breakdown of social and urban life, belonging to an exclusive club was attractive.

The Last Judgement, and the prospect of eternal bliss for an eternal roasting for everybody else, was a comfort at a time when the world seemed to be falling apart.

April 15 1988

PARLIAMENT

MPs protest at Government blocking of Bills

Frustrated Labour MPs protested at the blocking of private members' Bills at the end of a session that had devoted four hours to a measure to define and protect Scotch whisky and a further hour on a Bill to enhance consumers' rights.

At the same time, a Conservative MP's Bill about the winding up of major public companies completed its Commons stages within three minutes without further debate. Another 11 Bills made no progress, and Labour MPs protested about anonymous Government objections to some of them.

Among the deferred measures was the Environment and Safety Information Bill, sponsored by Mr Christopher Smith (Islington South and Finsbury, Lab), which would establish public access to enforcement notices

served under environmental and safety legislation.

It was blocked by a shouted objection, apparently from the Government Front Bench. Mr Smith protested that the Government had previously said that the Bill was worthwhile and might well do some good. Because of the objection, he deferred discussion of the Bill until next Friday.

Also effectively lost was the Unfair Reporting and Right of Reply Bill promoted by Mrs Ann Clwyd (Cynon Valley, Lab). The Bill, which will come up again formally on May 6, would give members of the public the right of reply to allegations made against them in the press or in broadcasts. The Bill would also establish a Media Complaints Commission

and extend legal aid to actions for defamation.

Sir Brandon Rhys Williams (Kensington, C), however, was not opposed on his Companies (Audit) Committee Bill, covering the appointment of audit committees of directors on "major" public companies. It is estimated that about 300 quoted companies would be affected.

The Bill was given an immediate second reading and passed remaining stages without debate, even though the deputy speaker, Miss Betty Boothroyd, said that this was a most unusual procedure.

To laughter, Sir Brandon said that he had been introducing similar measures since 1970.

Mr Smith said that the Government, which had objected to other Bills, should note the restraint of Labour MPs in not opposing Sir Brandon's Bill and

suggested that the Government could show equal restraint in opposing worthwhile Bills from Labour MPs.

Mr William Walker (Tayside North, C) moved third reading of the Scotch Whisky Bill.

He said that it would prevent the sale of "Scotch" of any spirit that did not meet the definition of Scotch whisky and would enable ministers to set a minimum alcoholic strength for Scotch whisky in the future.

They had feared that a more relaxed definition by the EEC could provide an opportunity for the emergence of a lower-quality whisky industry in Scotland.

The Bill made certain that it would not be possible to do this in such a way that that product could be confused with or thought to be Scotch.

At present, he said, contracts with, for example, builders or movers, had on the back, and usually in small print, a clause that any dispute would be referred to compulsory arbitration.

That was unfair to the consumer. The Bill would allow the consumer to take action through the small claims courts.

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WORLD ROUNDUP

Stay of execution to be extended

Johannesburg — Lawyers representing the "Sharpeville Six" — five black men and one black woman sentenced to death yesterday for the murder of a township councillor four years ago — lodged an application for a re-opening of their trial in the Supreme Court in Pretoria (Michael Hornsby writes).

This means that the stay of execution granted on March 17 will be extended until there is a decision on whether to re-open the case. That could take another month or more.

A lawyer for the six, Mr Prakash Dair, said the state's lawyers would now have "at least three weeks" in which to respond to the papers applying for a re-opening which were submitted yesterday by the defence. "I do not expect the hearing to be held before the second half of May", Mr Dair said.

Israel looks to Russia

Jerusalem — Israel is not trying actively to bring the Soviet Union into the Middle East peace-making process, but would welcome a visit here by the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, provided the initiative came from Moscow (David Bernstein writes).

A senior source in the Prime Minister's Office said yesterday that there has been no such initiative so far, but that Israel is "on the look-out for any signals". The source categorically denied reports that two close confidants of Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister — his bureau chief, Mr Yosef Ben-Aharon, and a Likud Member of Parliament, Mr Dan Meridor — were on a secret mission in Europe to sound out the Russians.

Islands agreement

Peking (AP) — President Aquino of the Philippines and the Chinese Prime Minister, Mr Li Peng, yesterday agreed that their rival claims to the Spratly Islands should be settled peacefully. Mr Li and China's President, Mr Yang Shangkun, whom Mrs Aquino met earlier, also said they would take steps to reduce China's large trade surplus with the Philippines.

● **MANILA** — Philippine soldiers have arrested eight navy divers who helped the coup leader Colonel Gregorio Honasan to escape from his prison ship two weeks ago.

Talks on Cambodia

Bangkok — The US and the Soviet Union are to have talks in Paris this month to help President Reagan and Mr Gorbachev reach an agreement on settling the Cambodian conflict (Neil Kelly writes). Mr Igor Rogachev, the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister who announced the meeting yesterday on a visit to Thailand, added that his forthcoming talks with his US counterpart, Mr Gaston Sigur, were "more significant" than any previous session because they would be engaged on preparatory work for the summit. He hoped the leaders could reach a deal on Cambodia.

Park killing sentence

New York (AP) — The defendant in a celebrated Central Park murder trial, Robert Chambers, was sentenced yesterday to five to 15 years in jail for strangling a friend, Jennifer Levin, aged 18. The sentence was agreed to three weeks earlier when Chambers pleaded guilty to first-degree manslaughter, abruptly ending the lengthy trial. "The Levin family have gone through hell because of my actions, and I'm sorry," Chambers said in his first public apology. The case put the spotlight on the under-aged drinking, drug taking and sex lives of wealthy New York youths.

Late tribute to Dali

Moscow (Reuters) — The first Soviet exhibition of works by Salvador Dali opened in Moscow yesterday in a belated tribute to the Spanish surrealist, whose art was once banned by the Kremlin as too bourgeois. Dali's most important paintings were absent from the exhibition, but 200 graphics brought to Moscow by M Pierre Argillet, a French collector, still provoked gasps of surprise.

'Figma' casts a cloud over Reagan bureaucrats

"Figma" to Pentagon officers is a coarse acronym explaining that inevitable lassitude that overtakes all those about to be posted and, following the euphemism, it stands for "I've got my orders".

A collective feeling of figma has now come over the Reagan Administration. Bureaucrats know they have not much longer to go. The big names have left already for lucrative jobs elsewhere, replaced by stand-ins. The thousands of middle-level political appointees are clearing their calendars and pigeon-holing policy reports, waiting to see whether they remain at their desks under President Bush, or whether President Dukakis will sweep in with new teams, new policies and new-fangled government.

A lame duck administration does not suddenly seize up. Government continues, papers are shuffled and plans proposed. But the focus narrows and big decisions take on an increasingly surreal quality. This makes long-term planning all but impossible, especially in fields such as defence.

Uncertainties over the budget,

weapons systems, strategy and arms control prospects are blurring the lines of Administration policy already. Mr Frank Carlucci, the Defence Secretary, seems intent on quietly modifying almost every policy Mr Caspar Weinberger strove for.

Against such a background, a high-level delegation from the West-

Washington View

By Michael Binyon

ern European Union came earlier this week to map out joint strategy and co-ordination with the US in advance of the union's meeting in The Hague on Monday. It would seem a thankless mission. As it was, the delegation, the first such visit by the European body, concentrated on talks in the Senate, where there is at least more continuity than in the executive branch.

As one senior member of the delegation remarked: "If we had come in about three weeks' time we wouldn't have got any sense out of anyone."

The Europeans were here to express their support for the INF Treaty and to counter the widespread notion that Europe is not pulling its weight in the alliance. They also wanted to find out where the Star Wars programme is going, what burden-sharing the US demands of the European pillar of Nato, and what American thinking is on strategy and deterrence.

What about the joint operations in the Gulf? How will arms control talks affect the US nuclear guarantee to Europe? How likely are cuts in US troop strengths in Europe? They had a hard time getting any real answers.

They wanted to know, for example, about the Ike-Wohlstetter report — the recent attempt by a group of former generals, politicians and National Security advisers to set priorities in US defence spending and essential commitments. Many Europeans are worried that this document, signed by such high-powered figures as Dr Henry Kissinger, seemed to suggest a limited nuclear war could be fought in Europe. "No European would be alive in that case," a Dutch Socialist

delegation member said. "Any idea we could survive a limited nuclear war is absolute nonsense."

But the Ike report was forgotten here almost within days of Fred Ikle leaving the Pentagon. Officials made it clear that the Pentagon's attempt to outline a strategic view has not gone down well. The report, like others produced at this stage in the Administration's life, has been quietly shelved.

The unspoken feeling of many Europeans — and an increasing number of Americans — is that the Strategic Defence Initiative will probably go the same way. The rationale of the programme, as articulated by officials nowadays, is becoming vague, and the Europeans tacitly decided not to press the point. They argue that the Pentagon's financial difficulties will largely determine what happens to SDI, and in any case the programme has not hindered the signing of the INF Treaty. As one delegation member put it, if there was more in SDI for the Europeans and it looked as though it was going somewhere, European private industry would be more involved.

Defence is an area where the stop-start rhythm of political decision-making is most disruptive. For long-term planning, Reagan officials tend to assume that Mr Bush will win in November and that things will continue much as they are. The fundamentals will probably remain the same under Mr Michael Dukakis. But it is simply no use making contingency defence plans for a Jackson presidency.

Other policy issues depend less on the White House or can more easily be put on hold. Aids research and society's response have gained a momentum of their own at last. The war on drugs is being fought mostly with words at the moment, but can be engaged in earnest at any time an administration finds the will. Transport, housing, education and other social legislation are all pressing issues, but all can probably wait until January.

Meanwhile, the bureaucrats muddle along, making do with present policies and limited aims. The feeling of winding down is slowly spreading over Washington.

Anti-American protests add to fears of terrorism

Red Army suspect found with bombs is charged in US

From Charles Bremner in New York and David Watts in Tokyo

A suspected guerrilla of Japan's Red Army organization was charged in New Jersey yesterday with possessing three sophisticated bombs, each powerful enough to blow up a building.

Police believe that Yu Kikumura, arrested just outside New York on Tuesday, may have been preparing a terrorist strike against President Reagan, Mrs Thatcher and the other leaders of the industrialized powers when they meet for their annual summit at Toronto in June.

A vigilant highway patrol stopped Kikumura, aged 35, as he drove out of a service area on the New Jersey motorway because he was behaving suspiciously. They found three bombs disguised as fire extinguishers in his car boot. Superintendent Clinton Pagano of the New Jersey Police said: "The material was loaded and charged and ready to use." The devices, defused with the help of robots, had enough explosive power to flatten a building.

Kikumura, arrested with a passport in another name, is known to international police

forces as a globe-trotting terrorist with links to the Red Army, the underground group that staged a series of bloody massacres in Europe and elsewhere in the 1970s but has since been relatively silent.

He was expelled from The Netherlands in 1986 for possessing explosives and had recently run a book shop in Greece, according to news reports.

The international connection is particularly worrying for the Federal Bureau of Investigation because the US mainland has so far escaped the attentions of the terrorists, who have blown up American personnel and installations in Europe and around the world.

A federal judge refused bail for the Japanese citizen and appointed a lawyer for his defence. FBI agents said that he had refused to talk since his arrest on Tuesday.

Officials said that it was too early to draw any links between the New Jersey bombs and the suspected role of the Red Army in the Naples attack on Thursday.

Mr Juzzo Okudaira, the man Italian police want to

question over this week's outrage, is aged 39 and a known member of the Red Army.

He is thought to have been responsible for explosions near the British and American Embassies in Rome last June.

Mr Okudaira is believed to operate with the Red Army's Middle East section, based in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley since being forced out of Japan in the early 1970s and out of Beirut itself during the 1982 Israeli invasion. Red Army members are said to be dispersed between the Bekaa, Cyprus and North Yemen, with Mr Kozo Okamoto, the leader of the attack on Israel's Lod Airport in 1972, now spending most of his time in Libya.

Mr Okudaira's brother, Takeshi, was killed during the Lod Airport massacre. The brothers were born to a wealthy family whose ancestors were leaders of a feudal clan in south-west Japan.

Takeshi Okudaira was married to Miss Fusako Shigenobu, who is now the leader of the Red Army in the Middle East. She left Japan for Lebanon in 1972.



Massime burning the Stars and Stripes in Manila yesterday to mark the second anniversary of the US bombing raid on Libya and to protest against US bases in the Philippines.

Big Apple loses its shine — blighted by Aids, crack and crashes

From Charles Bremner New York

Fabulous, dynamic, electric New York City, battlefield of the next primary election, still tries to live up to its view of itself as the greatest metropolis, an image reinforced by admiring outsiders. Take the Pope, for example. Obviously in tune with the place on a recent visit, he dubbed it capital of the world.

But as the 1980s draw to a close, the pessimists are again writing epitaphs for the Big Apple. Big deal, say true New Yorkers, who are used to predictions of impending doom and yawn at the "New York on the brink" stories that come from jealous "mainland" Americans.

But a decade on from the near-bankruptcy that almost put the city out of business, it is clear that it is again staggering under a host of ills, some of them new and some very old. Crack, greed, Aids, crash, race — the evils can be summed up



US ELECTION

with a handful of monosyllables.

Black Monday last October marked the official turning point. Within a week, Mayor Edward Koch, cheerleader of the New York revival and the city's court jester, announced the end of good times that went with the economic boom and started cutting back municipal jobs. The city's new dependence on service industries makes it vulnerable, and Mr Koch is still telling everyone: "We are in for trouble now."

The seeds of the crisis were sown in the early 1980s, when big money

New York — Senator Albert Gore of Tennessee, the underdog in the Democratic primary race, received a hefty boost in his fading campaign in New York by winning the endorsement of Mayor Edward Koch. "I believe in what Al Gore stands for," Mr Koch said. Mr Gore claimed: "It's a tremendous boost," but according to a new poll he has only 6 per cent of electoral support.

put the glitz back in Manhattan, a party-time when cocaine was for chic recreation and Aids was only just appearing to spoil the fun. New Yorkers, already nostalgic for this now-lost era, are flocking to see its recreation in *Bright Lights, Big City*, the film of Jay McInerney's novel.

Back then, Mr Koch, who won office in 1977, had already lost his attempts to rein in the entrenched interests which really govern the city — the builders, the borough politicians, the Caretakers Union which holds sway over the decay-

ing schools. In what seemed a good idea, he had granted huge tax concessions to developers like Mr Donald Trump, who littered Manhattan with glittering skyscrapers and sent land prices soaring.

Unknown at the time, many of Mr Koch's associates were imitating the crooks of Wall Street, lining their pockets and presiding over one of the biggest feasts of corruption in New York's memory. The round-up of small fry is still going on. No-one was amazed when a third of the Health Department's restaurant inspectors were arrested last month for extortion.

The legacy of the boom is a city more polarized than ever. 7.3 million people with a new class of very rich who pay heavily to shield themselves from the 1.8 million living in poverty, 50,000 of them on the streets, railway stations and makeshift shelters.

"Never make eye-contact with a panhandler if you don't intend to

give," newcomers are advised. "Never give to anyone younger than you."

New Yorkers have always prided themselves on their masochism. It makes them queasy to be insulted by doormen at Nell's or sneered at by the bookings girl at the Rainbow Room.

This is the spirit that delights in proving that Tom Wolfe's *Bonfire of the Vanities* is faithful documentary, not cruel satire. More than any other in recent memory, the novel has become an instant cultural touchstone.

The city is still the financial, artistic and ideas capital of the Americas, although global communications are enabling Los Angeles and other places to move up as intellectual centres.

For the well-off, Manhattan is still home to the best restaurants, theatre, music, and shopping in the country. But the dirt, crime, cosmic rents and taxes and the collapse of

the state schools are accelerating the flight of the middle classes, long dominated by the Jewish, Italian, Irish and other groups.

Big companies have been moving out in droves — so many that Mr Koch appeared in an advertising campaign last year with hammer in hand boarding up the tunnels to New Jersey and calling on employers to stay.

Additionally, a survey has just found that many executives around the country are refusing promotions which involve a move to New York, even with financial incentives. The headlines and statistics are scaring them off.

Take Aids, for example. The disease has cut a swathe through the artistic world, especially in Greenwich Village. One in 60 children in the city is being born with the virus.

The drug plague has also brought the money and mad killing that have appeared in other cities and made worse the lot of the "under-

class", the growing black population that has slipped out of society. When teenagers can make \$600 a week selling crack there is little incentive to earn far less at a straight job. "Usually you say the old days were better or worse," says Jimmy Breslin. "But it was never anything like this."

With the white middle class sending their children mainly to private schools, black and Hispanics account for three-quarters of the school population. Six out of 10 drop out, a third of them illiterate.

But there is another side to the coin. For all Mr Koch's griping, the city's economy has yet to show the cracks that he is predicting. Unemployment is at its lowest for 18 years, and a new restraint is emerging in Manhattan, now that excess has been proclaimed out of fashion.

And for all his gloom, Mr Koch still insists: "New Yorkers feel much better about themselves than they did in 1975."

Tokyo wage slaves resist leisure lure

From David Watts, Tokyo

A pretty songstress sang of the virtues of a five-day working week to a class of grim-faced bureaucrats. They seemed unmoved, but the Ministry of Labour hopes the song will convince the Japanese to take a two-day weekend and "take time for love to grow", as the young lady put it.

Despite government efforts to legislate the typical salary earner into a more relaxed person, spending more time with his family or colleagues, he is driven to work longer than ever before. Life in the number two economic superpower is getting tougher.

High prices have driven him further out of the city centre so commuting takes longer, and fewer staff means longer working hours, according to private surveys which belie government propaganda that the Japanese are falling more into line with other industrial nations.

The difference now is that more people are willing to speak out against a system which propels Japan's world economic standing ever upwards but leaves the ordinary employee nothing extra to show for his efforts.

"I sometimes wonder where it is all going to lead. The cost of things keeps on going up

and nobody complains. I see it happening to myself: my daughter wants a dress for 20,000 yen (£80). I know it's really worth half that but I buy it anyway," said a young professional who, like so many others, does not want to be seen to be complaining. A trade union survey showed that 76 per cent of respondents felt they were overworked and fully 90 per cent were finding it hard to make ends meet.

A similar number want shorter working hours and a better quality of life — the twin themes of the *Shanto* spring wage campaign this year. The campaign will bring head-on clashes with managements trying to hold the line on costs.

In a few weeks the Government will introduce the 40-hour working week, down from the present 48 hours. Internationally it will look good, but it will mean nothing to the ordinary employee. Small firms do not have to follow its provisions.

Holidays are still the exception rather than the rule. Most workers are afraid to take time off because they lose the promotion race. They are only too well aware that employers still rate hours worked rather than results achieved as the key sign of a loyal employee.

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The Afghanistan accord

Parties differ on definition

The reality that the new Geneva accord on Afghanistan is a deal made to be broken emerged more clearly than ever here yesterday as details of its implementation began to be discussed.

The only element on which all parties agree is that the Soviet Army will pull out by the end of the year. Almost everything else is open to widely diverging interpretation. One stark example of this came yesterday when M Jean-Pierre Hocké, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, outlined the framework for returning 5.5 million Afghan refugees to their homes — probably the largest and most costly operation the UN has ever undertaken.

Asked if Mujahidin guerrillas — understood to number between 80,000 and 150,000 — would be disbanded before being taken into the returnees scheme, he replied: "In my opinion, all refugees are civilians."

The previous day, Mr Zain Noorani, the Pakistan Foreign Minister, had announced with ill-disguised glee that, by his definition, all Mujahidin were refugees and so the sections of the agreement which referred to Islamabad's obligation to curb "mercenaries, terrorists, saboteurs and subversive

agents" did not apply to the Afghan resistance.

The Soviet and Afghan delegations offered an interpretation which was entirely the opposite. But few observers or diplomats express any surprise at this. A senior Western official said: "The point of the agreement was to get the Russians out of Afghanistan. Everything else is just window-dressing."

One diplomat explained that, for the Russians, "the agreement offered the opportunity to save a little face. They get out of Afghanistan, which they are desperate to do because of the cost, their lack of military success, and their desire to further improve East-West relations before the fourth Reagan-Gorbachev summit, where they hope to make progress towards a 50 per cent reduction in strategic nuclear weapons. With the agreement they get out with as much grace as could be expected in the circumstances."

He added: "For the West, the agreement produced a firm timetable for Soviet withdrawal and the opportunity to monitor it."

The shortcomings of the accord are universally acknowledged: it contains no ceasefire; introduces no broadly-based interim govern-

ment to create a political calm during the Soviet withdrawal; offers no mechanism for the election by all Afghans of a new administration; and reaches no understanding on cutting arms supplies by the Soviet Union and the US to their respective clients, thus

certain arms to the Mujahidin. There is distinct unease that some of the Stinger missiles are being sold by the Afghan resistance to arms dealers rather than being used against Soviet helicopter gunships. The fact that remnants of two American-made Stingers were found last October in the wreckage of two Iranian gun boats destroyed while attacking US ships in the Gulf is frequently mentioned.



M Hocké: Appeal for funds to help returning refugees.

offering the antagonists no inducement to negotiate.

One Western political aide said: "Despite that, we grabbed it, because our chief aim was to get the Russians out. If it leaves Afghanistan still in a mess, that is a secondary issue."

Privately, American officials here say that they would like to reduce the flow of

guerrillas that make up the seven Mujahidin groups revert to more traditional and tribal patterns of fighting. Understandably M Hocké, the man responsible for overseeing the return of 3.1 million Afghan refugees from Pakistan and 2.4 million from Iran, spoke tentatively when questioned yesterday on how the programme will be implemented. He said: "The agreement is very clear. Everyone is allowed to return to the very place he has come from."

When and how that will happen is a lot less clear, but M Hocké said he would be appealing to governments for donations to put the massive operation into gear as soon as possible. Britain has offered £10 million already. Sustaining refugees in Pakistan alone has cost \$1.5 billion (about £830 million) in the past eight years. M Hocké said: "The magnitude of the envisaged operation is such that it will require vast financial and material resources."

It will also require a more settled and much clearer political situation. MOSCOW: The Soviet Union will reveal the strength of its force in Afghanistan once the soldiers have begun pulling out next month, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said yesterday.

Living conditions in Dakar's jail are probably slightly better than those in the teeming, squalid area that stretches behind it and from which many of its common criminal inmates are drawn. But under the state of emergency in the Senegalese capital, the prison has become home to a fistful of opposition leaders, including President Diouf's chief rival, Mr Abdoulaye Wade.

For six weeks the charismatic Mr Wade has held daily court here, receiving the numerous people who come to pay their respects in a small room off the central inner courtyard.

It is a mark of the tolerance and good humour that continues despite the present tension that I found myself included in that gathering, interviewing the man who will shortly come before the State Security Court charged with inciting the violence which took place the day after the presidential election in late February.

Mr Wade, in traditional flowing robes and sitting on the one good chair in the tiny prison room, believes that he is the rightful President of Senegal. According to the calculations of his Democratic Senegalese Party, Mr Wade gained 56 per cent of the vote against President Diouf's 43 per cent. President Diouf must resign, he insisted, and the democratic process take its course.

His response to the charge against him is that he said nothing during his vociferous election campaign which he has not been stating since the last presidential election in 1983: that the opposition will not stand for electoral frauds and will take matters into their own hands.

Officially, Mr Wade received 25 per cent of the vote against President Diouf's 73 per cent with other opposition parties taking the rest. It is generally thought that, even allowing for the incidents of fraud, President Diouf won the election countrywide, though in some areas, including Dakar, Mr Wade's vote was high.

What is more serious is that Senegal has a growing young people's problem which this year found political expression in the opposition election slogan of *Sopi*, which means change.

Despite a plea by the new

Education Minister, Mr Ibrahim Niane, Senegalese children on Monday refused to end their two-month-old strike by returning to school after the Easter break. They issued yet another 72-hour ultimatum, which expires tomorrow, calling for improved school facilities and reforms in teaching methods.

But teachers say that the young people's desire for a change in the whole system underlines these demands. As one Dakar University professor

still, together with the Islamic religious brotherhoods, has a strong hold.

Senegal, a poor country afflicted by falling international prices for its only two export products, peanuts and phosphate, is kept afloat by massive IMF, World Bank and other international loans, many of which are linked to programmes which have been criticised as hindering efforts to streamline the economy.

With a yearly population growth of 3 per cent, more than half the population was born well after independence and see no future for themselves. The previous generation's solution — emigration — is now blocked as Europe imposes tighter and tighter restrictions.

Mr Papa Ndiame Sene, who is trying to set up a consultancy group to assist African private enterprise, said Europe and African states are not really interested in developing African private enterprise. Europeans see it as a threat to a docile African market, and African politicians see it as a threat to their hold over their economies. But, he says, in 20 years there will be 25 million Africans knocking on the doors of Europe if no future is created for them.

President Diouf's problems are more immediate. Somehow he has to reduce present tension, convince the young that he is with them and return Senegal to its normal open existence, but no one here can see how he will achieve this.

A huge paramilitary police presence means that Dakar is calm, but that is a temporary solution imposed after the post-election rioting. The determined members of the opposition are happy to be considered imprisoned heroes. Mr Wade's trial will be a sticky one for the authorities. Himself a lawyer of international repute, he is being defended by no fewer than 30 colleagues, including Maître Francis Szpiner, the flamboyant French lawyer who last year defended the former Emperor Bokassa of the Central African Republic.

Judging from the recent trial of a lesser opposition leader, Mr Abdoulaye Bathily, the lawyers will try to turn it into a theatrical trial to damage Mr Diouf's image abroad.

Le Pen seeks a kingmaker role

The extreme right-wing National Front candidate, M Jean-Marie Le Pen — who is campaigning on an overtly anti-immigrant ticket — addressing hardline supporters in Lyons behind a barricade of bodyguards.

He is receiving up to 12 per cent support in the opinion polls and M Alain Juppé, the campaign spokesman for the Prime Minister, M Jacques Chirac, said this week that the votes of Le Pen's supporters would be crucial to whichever candidate wins the May 8 runoff. But M Chirac has ruled out negotiations with M Le Pen, saying he has a gut aversion to racism. He has sought to woo the National Front voters by saying he understands the causes of anti-immigrant sentiment.

M Le Pen wants to expel illegal immigrants and encourage others to leave by discriminating against them in jobs and housing. He argues

that foreign cultural "pollution" is taking France from the French.

The National Front leader brags that he will hold the keys to the Elysee Palace in the run-off, while his posters portray him as the dark horse — "L'Oussider".

Ironically, M Le Pen's National Front has taken votes from the Communist Party, replacing the old left as the place for disgruntled workers to register their protest. On Thursday, his party played kingmaker for the governing centre-right coalition in a regional contest. The illustration came in the eastern town of Besancon, in a poll to elect a regional council chairman to replace the elder statesman M Edgar Faure, who died last month. The candidate of the centre-right needed the votes of three National Front councillors to beat the Socialists (Photograph: Chris Harris)

Senegalese pay court to jailed 'president'

From Susan MacDonald, Dakar

Education Minister, Mr Ibrahim Niane, Senegalese children on Monday refused to end their two-month-old strike by returning to school after the Easter break. They issued yet another 72-hour ultimatum, which expires tomorrow, calling for improved school facilities and reforms in teaching methods.

But teachers say that the young people's desire for a change in the whole system underlines these demands. As one Dakar University professor

still, together with the Islamic religious brotherhoods, has a strong hold.

Senegal, a poor country afflicted by falling international prices for its only two export products, peanuts and phosphate, is kept afloat by massive IMF, World Bank and other international loans, many of which are linked to programmes which have been criticised as hindering efforts to streamline the economy.

With a yearly population growth of 3 per cent, more than half the population was born well after independence and see no future for themselves. The previous generation's solution — emigration — is now blocked as Europe imposes tighter and tighter restrictions.

Mr Papa Ndiame Sene, who is trying to set up a consultancy group to assist African private enterprise, said Europe and African states are not really interested in developing African private enterprise. Europeans see it as a threat to a docile African market, and African politicians see it as a threat to their hold over their economies. But, he says, in 20 years there will be 25 million Africans knocking on the doors of Europe if no future is created for them.

President Diouf's problems are more immediate. Somehow he has to reduce present tension, convince the young that he is with them and return Senegal to its normal open existence, but no one here can see how he will achieve this.

A huge paramilitary police presence means that Dakar is calm, but that is a temporary solution imposed after the post-election rioting. The determined members of the opposition are happy to be considered imprisoned heroes. Mr Wade's trial will be a sticky one for the authorities. Himself a lawyer of international repute, he is being defended by no fewer than 30 colleagues, including Maître Francis Szpiner, the flamboyant French lawyer who last year defended the former Emperor Bokassa of the Central African Republic.

Judging from the recent trial of a lesser opposition leader, Mr Abdoulaye Bathily, the lawyers will try to turn it into a theatrical trial to damage Mr Diouf's image abroad.

Bloodiest stage of war will follow Soviet pull-out

From Edward Gorman Peshawar

The Afghan war has been through several clearly definable stages during the past eight years, but now that a Soviet withdrawal has become a certainty, it is set to enter its final and perhaps bloodiest period.

Despite the Geneva peace accords, signed on Thursday, both Washington and Moscow — somewhat absurdly — have retained the right to continue to supply arms to Kabul and the Mujahidin respectively and both sides are now gearing up for the long-awaited showdown.

The key to the future prospects of the resistance is a new long-range destructive capability, which should allow for the swift elimination of the thousands of exposed and poorly-defended Afghan Army posts scattered around the countryside and for effective pressure to be put on strategic centres and the capital, Kabul.

Washington has said repeatedly that it will not let down the Mujahidin during the coming months, and its choice of new weapons attests not only to that commitment but

also to a proper understanding on the part of Pentagon military planners of the needs of the guerrillas. The principal new arms reaching the battlefield are 122 mm and 107 mm Chinese-made rocket-launchers with a range of 12½ miles; 75 mm cannons; and Milan anti-tank wire-guided rockets, which claim success against "any known tank" at a range of 200 yards.

Other important additions to the Mujahidin's armoury include an 120 mm mortar, and rocket-assisted mine-clearing equipment.

There is evidence that these weapons are making a decisive impact. In Nangarhar province, close to the Pakistan border, one of the first areas to be re-supplied, recent battles against previously unassailable government positions

have been carried to a swift conclusion with a minimum of guerrilla casualties. A Western-educated Muslim who visited the area recently said that six posts had been knocked out in the space of seven days. In one battle, on April 5, in which he took part, the guerrillas destroyed the command post of the 71st Brigade of the Afghan Army, near Jalalabad, using BM 12 rockets and 120 mm and 82 mm mortars, without sustaining a single casualty.

"We did not capture the

garrison," he said. "We destroyed it. It was a guerrilla operation, but taking on a conventional position with conventional weapons in broad daylight in one of the four areas of Afghanistan which the Government regards as under its control."

The Mujahidin will be able to use these weapons to great effect around the cities, particularly Kabul.

The prospects for the Kabul Government are far less easy to discern with any certainty. President Najibullah's survival will depend as much on political factors as the military effectiveness of the Afghan Army deprived of direct Soviet military support. The Russians have done their best to bolster him over the past few months with increased supplies and, no doubt, will continue to do so during their nine-month withdrawal, beginning on May 15.

But most observers agree that Dr Najibullah's problems — which have been largely concealed by a Soviet military presence — will now return to haunt him and hamper attempts to conduct a concerted military strategy against guerrillas fired by a sense of imminent victory.

Some analysts predict that the countryside at large, including the cities of Herat, Kandahar, Mazar-e-Sharif and Jalalabad, will fall quickly even before a Soviet withdrawal is completed. There will then ensue a siege of the capital.

Perhaps Dr Najibullah's best prospects rest on whether or not he can succeed in making a deal with one of all of the Mujahidin leaders. But at present that looks as unlikely as a wholesale violation of the Geneva treaty by Moscow in coming back to his rescue.

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Mellor fires broadside at Kremlin over rights reform

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

One of the most important but least understood attempts to build a new understanding between East and West was facing deadlock yesterday after a speech by Mr David Mellor, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, which was sharply critical of the Soviet Union.

The Vienna review of the 35-nation Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe has barely penetrated public consciousness in the 18 months since it began. Yet diplomats and politicians in both halves of Europe believe it will be seen in retrospect as a landmark in East-West relations.

That assumes that it ends in success, but yesterday Mr Mellor suggested in Vienna that unless Moscow became more co-operative it might not. In what was billed by the Foreign Office as an important statement of British policy, Mr Mellor told the conference that there would be no deal until Moscow lived up to its human rights promises.

The main job of the review is to set up a new forum for talks on cutting conventional forces from the Atlantic to the Urals. This is seen by both Nato and the Warsaw Pact as the foundation stone for building greater trust.

The forum is all but settled and hinges on an ingenious idea to overcome French objections to taking part in direct negotiations between the power blocs. It was partly the absence of the French that doomed the earlier and even less-known Mutual Balanced Force Reductions Talks to 14 years of obscurity.

But the review also covers a host of agreements on other subjects, including human rights. Until there is accord on all of them, the final document cannot be signed and none will come into effect.

Britain has always said it would not let a half-baked deal on human rights go through simply to get the arms talks started. But Moscow appears to have been hoping that as

Western Europe saw how much was at stake on security issues, it would soften its human rights position.

Yesterday's speech was intended to put paid to those hopes. Mr Mellor threatened to spin out the talks, which were originally expected to end a year ago, until 1989 rather than settle for what he called "a quick-fix cosmetic agreement". He added: "It is not enough for us to succeed on one (issue) if we fail miserably on the other. We will not be bought off in that way," he said.

The speech caused some surprise in diplomatic circles because of its use of what some call "post-cold war rhetoric".

"There can be no common European home with barbed wire in the garden and secret policemen in the cellar," Mr Mellor said, accusing Moscow of "coyness" and "obstructionism". "After 18 months of negotiation we are still being treated to a combination of foot-dragging at the negotiating table and honeyed promises of flexibility in the corridors," he said.

Behind Mr Mellor's attack lies a concern that a fundamental British objective could be lost. That is to keep confronting Brezhnev's successors with the promises he had made on human rights at Helsinki in 1975.

Britain concedes that there has been improvement with the Gorbachev reforms, but not yet enough. So the quality of the final document will be the proof or otherwise of West Europe's diplomatic effectiveness in moving the Soviet giant.

Mr Peter Mladenov, the Bulgarian Foreign Minister, urged delegates not to make unrealistic demands on human rights issues, which could be complicated by "confrontational approaches".

"It is important to discern the outlines of what is possible in the present state of East-West relations," Mr Mladenov said.

Graham tunes in to Chinese youth



Dr Billy Graham, the American evangelist, leading Chinese schoolchildren yesterday in a song during a visit to the Great Wall near Peking. It is the first trip to China for Dr Graham, who has been to more than 60 countries.

India's Bofors arms scandal

Key man testifies on missing millions

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

Mr Win Chadha, the former agent in India for the Swedish arms company Bofors, began testifying yesterday before a joint parliamentary committee investigating an arms scandal.

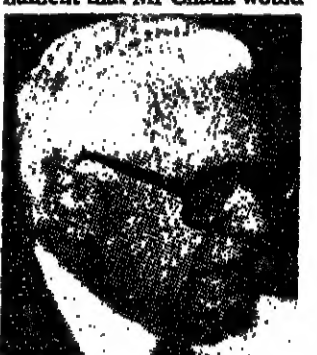
He returned to Delhi only 24 hours before, and after a brief fracas at the airport in which two photographers said their cameras were broken, he was whisked away by men from the Intelligence Bureau and the Finance Ministry's Enforcement Directorate.

The parliamentary committee is charged with finding out what happened to an estimated 640 million rupees (£30 million) paid out by the Swedish company, a subsidiary of Nobel Industries, in return for winning the contract to supply 410 FH77B 155mm howitzers to the Indian Army.

Mr Chadha came back after Indian demands to have him forcibly returned from the United States to give evidence at the parliamentary inquiry

into the Bofors affair. The Americans declined to deport him, however, and there seemed to be no ground for extradition proceedings.

Mr Chadha's passport was then cancelled and his return was urged by the Government, although he claimed that he was not well enough to make the journey. A doctor later confirmed he was unfit, but last week a junior minister announced in the Indian Parliament that Mr Chadha would



Mr Chadha arriving in Delhi from the US for the hearing.

be returning soon to give evidence. The Bofors contract is the largest arms deal the country has signed, and its cost is estimated at around 17 billion rupees (£800 million). It was signed when Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, held the defence portfolio, and since the news of the payout was first disclosed opposition politicians and newspapers have tried to pin the blame on him, or his family or friends.

The hunt has taken Indian newspapers through a maze of side issues, including the finances of Amitabh Bachchan, a film star friend of the Gandhis, and his brother, who has been trying to move to Switzerland; Chandraswami, a Hindu holyman, who is said to know more than he is prepared to say; and Mr Martin Ardbo, a former Bofors representative. The parliamentary committee is now coming to the end of its deliberations. It has twice met the former president of Bo-

for, Mr Per Ove Morberg, but has only elicited a statement that the money was paid over to three non-Indian companies as part of winding up charges after the Indian Government insisted that all agents must be discharged. Mr Morberg is reported to have insisted that the payments were not made to Indians.

This last claim has been firmly denied by Mr Ardbo, who testified in Sweden, where Bofors' affairs are also being investigated. He said that if there had been no payment, there would have been no contract.

Since the parliamentary committee is accused of having been set up to whitewash the whole affair, and specifically to keep blame away from Mr Gandhi and his associates, it has been boycotted by most of the Opposition.

It seems unlikely, therefore, that Mr Chadha is going to point any accusing fingers in the course of his evidence in a secret session before it today.

Closer ties sought

From Our Own Correspondent, Delhi

Relations between London and Delhi are expected to improve following a visit to India by Lord Glenarthur, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, which begins tomorrow.

A recent BBC Panorama programme about Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, caused some ill-will between the two capitals and a previous visit by a British minister, Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Transport, was called off.

A memorandum of understanding on technology exchange, initiated here last week by Indian and British

officials, is another sign of the improving atmosphere and both sides appear to be aiming to make the most of the visit.

The junior minister will hear a great deal about the threat to India's integrity and unity from Sikh separatists resident, and some say indulged, in Britain. While India now accepts that Britain has a better appreciation of its concerns, it still believes not enough is being done to control the separatists or restrict their fund-raising activities. A proposed new extradition treaty between the two countries is also expected to be raised.

Policemen killed at Basque bar

Madrid — Basque terrorists were suspected of shooting dead two policemen after laying a trap for the officers in the northern Spanish city of Vitoria (Harry Debelius writes).

The two officers arrived at a bar having been tipped off by an anonymous caller that several people there were taking drugs. As they drew up on motorbikes, three or four men fired at them from the bar and, according to witnesses, fired again at point blank range when the policemen were lying in the street.

Hindu killed

Amritsar (Reuter) — Two suspected Sikh militants shot dead a right-wing Hindu political leader in this Punjab Sikh holy city.

Plane downed

Lisbon (AFP) — Guerrillas in Angola shot down a government transport plane this week, killing all the soldiers aboard, Unita rebels said.

Strike defied

Beirut (Reuter) — Many Lebanese workers showed rare defiance against a strike call here more than half the shops here opened for business.

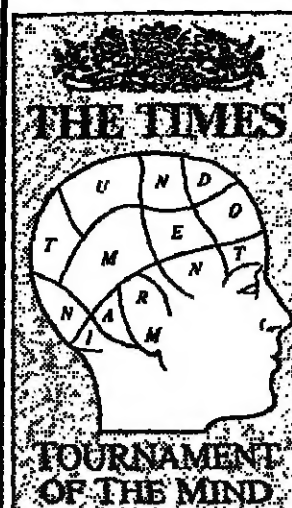
Six drown

Ankara (Reuter) — Six people, including four children, were drowned in floods which left thousands homeless in south-east Turkey.

Strangler dies

Richmond, Virginia (AFP) — Earl Clanton, aged 33, died in the electric chair after last-minute appeals failed, for strangling a woman during a 1980 robbery.

Tournament of the Mind



● Last round of the individual final of the Tournament of the Mind, with £5,000 awaiting the winner

● Next week: the schools' final, starting on Monday

● The battle for *The Times* Tournament of the Mind is coming to an end with these last questions in the individual finals. The 124 finalists from the original entry of more than 30,000 are now competing for the £5,000 prize and the trophy to be awarded to *The Times* Mind of the Year.

● The finalists, who have all been sent prepaid answer forms, are reminded that their entries must be received by Mensa, who have set the problems, by Friday April 22. The answers will be published in *The Times* during the following week. In the event of a tie, further problems will be set until a winner is found.

● The schools' final for the IBM Personal System/2 computer will be played over five days starting on Monday. All finalists will receive a certificate to mark their achievement.

INDIVIDUAL FINAL — ROUND SIX

In this diagram, the A signifies the number -122, B signifies -120 and C -124. The other numbers have been filled in. If you start at the bottom left-hand corner and move upwards to the right-hand top corner, how many different ways can you find of attaining a score of 319 and 321? You may collect only nine numbers with each

145	C	144	B	157
A	156	C	154	B
155	C	155	A	143
B	176	B	156	A
165	A	143	C	144

attempt and you must move upwards or horizontally from square to touching square. You cannot move diagonally, and a square touching another only at the corner is not regarded as touching.

This strange sentence is an anagram of four words. Use every letter to discover the words which have a mammalian connection. Here is the sentence:

APE BOY REVEALS LOCKED TRAIL

Your clock was correct at midnight and stopped at six minutes past one (13.06) in the afternoon. From midnight it had begun to gain 7 1/2 seconds. It stopped exactly two weeks ago. Can you tell us what the correct time is, obviously to the nearest second?

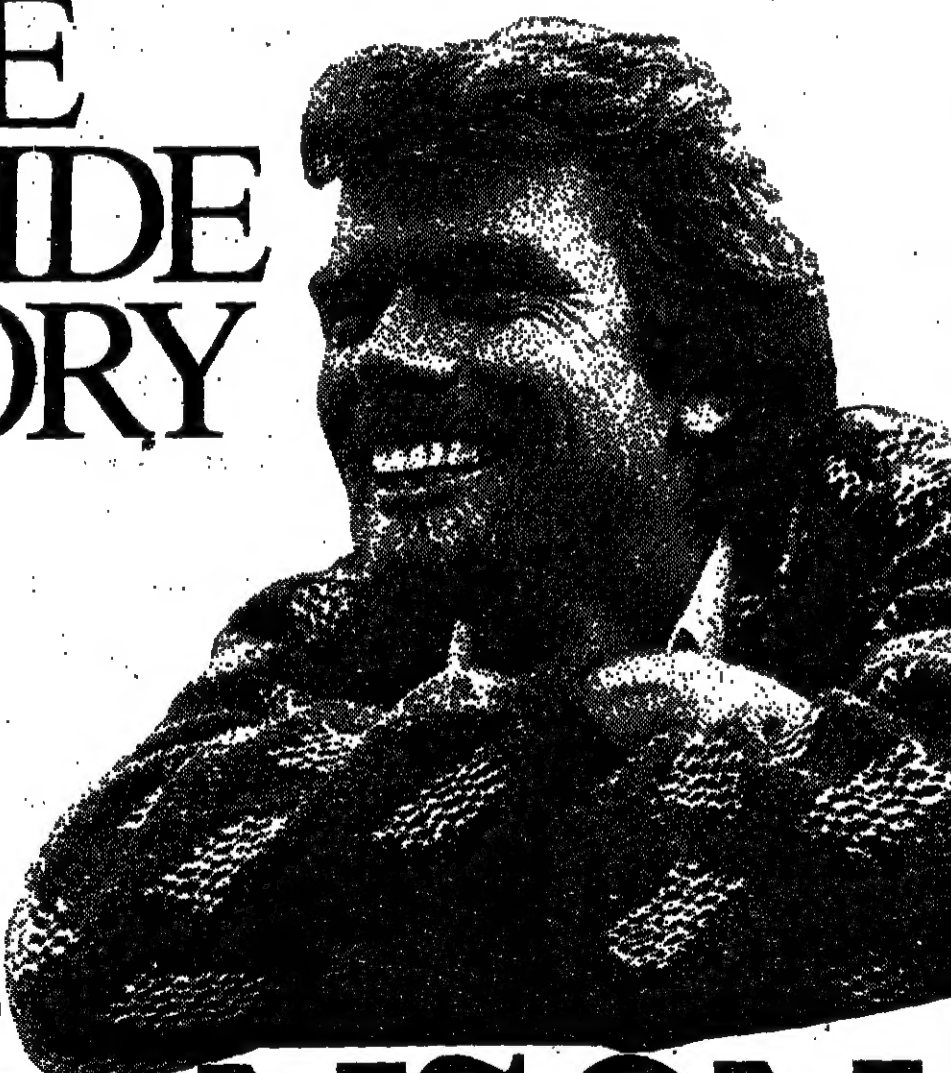
Look at this series and tell us what the letters represent.

M M M A T B T L B

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

1. Who composed the music for the film *Operation Daybreak*?
2. Who wrote the tetralogy *Les Jeunes Filles*?
3. Which mountain range eventually reaches 6,476 feet at Pico Turquino?
4. Which legless female insect has a globular body covered with a layer of hardened resin?
5. An extinct bird had a glossy black plumage, white-tipped tail and orange wattles at the base of the bill. While the bill of the male was strong and straight, that of the female was long, slender and curved. What was the bird?

THE INSIDE STORY



RICHARD

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ARMERIA

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TIMES DIARY

SIMON BARNES

Our alleged summer begins today, or at least the cricket season starts. But have no fears: I have every confidence that this will be a baking, sweating, glorious, phew-what-a-scorching summer. We had such a summer the last time the West Indians were here for a Test series, and during a tour in which only the weather could save Our Boys. England sweated their way to a 5-0 drubbing in what will always be remembered as the Blackwash Series. I think we can rely on England to demonstrate that reports of the waning of West Indian power have been greatly exaggerated: a legitimate sacrifice for a better summer.

But Lord's is not what it was. This summer is the first in which "corporate entertainment" has been officially sanctioned at headquarters. The theory of corporate entertainment is that people who don't give two hoots about cricket can watch, or not watch, in luxury, revelling in privilege as they compare themselves with ordinary people fighting for wilting pines and over-priced beers. More and more sporting events cater for lunch eaters rather than sports enthusiasts: it was inevitable that Lord's would follow.

I hear you ask: "Is nothing sacred?" I reply: "Yes. Money." Keith Prowse Hospitality is charging £1.65 per person per day (plus VAT) for a place in a marquee.

Birmingham may have lost the 1992 Olympic Games to Barcelona, but it looks as if Britain has won the fattest contract of the Olympics. Granada Rowland, a subsidiary of (who else?) Saatchi and Saatchi, seem set to run the communications, sponsorship and advertising: a massive task. The deal would also tie up the Howard Marlbrough sports sponsorship agency and the BSB advertising agency, both also subsidiaries of S & S.

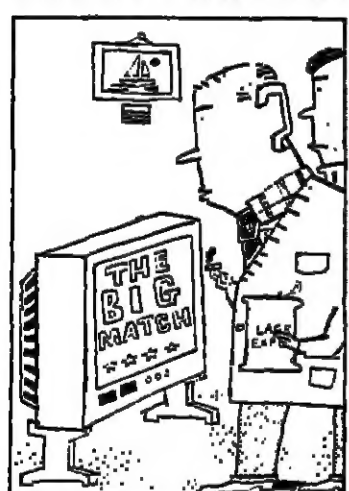
I hear that Colin Moyall, our ever-bubbling Minister of Sport, had his car broken into the other week. The thieves took his cassette player, but all was not lost. They left his Charlton Athletic tie.

So many football chairmen are out of touch with the game. They simply do not understand the players, they do not understand how a team works, they do not understand the pains and pressures of playing football at a senior level.

This is not true of Dave Hargreaves, chairman of Padstow, in the Bass North West Counties League. For Hargreaves is also the club's leading goal scorer. He has been player-chairman for 18 months. A former pro with Blackburn Rovers, he joined Padstow three years ago from Accrington Stanley. "I went on to the committee because I thought I could contribute something, having played at a higher level," he said. "Then the chairman suddenly resigned, and I was lumbered with his job."

Padstow players are on an incentive bonus and are paid according to results, though Hargreaves says he had nothing to do with that decision. But, as chairman, he pays himself. The team manager - who is Hargreaves' boss, just as Hargreaves is the manager's boss - is Dennis Cook. Hargreaves said: "I don't have any say in the running of the team. He runs it the way he wants to, and if he picks me, I play. He hasn't dropped me yet, but I dare say that day will come."

BARRY FANTONI



'Looks like a serious injury - his solicitor's running on to the pitch'

They take their football pretty seriously in Africa: a match in the African Champions Cup now looks like becoming a diplomatic incident. Certainly the Burundi ambassador to Zaire has been brought in after the match between Inter Burundi and Etoile Congo. The visiting Burundis were accused of stabbing their local guide who, they claimed, had caused their jujitsu man to be detained by the police. The guide apparently escaped by jumping from a first-floor window, breaking a wrist. The jujitsu man was released after the match (in which the Angolan referee turned down what looked like a perfectly good Burundi goal). After police questioning, the Burundis missed their flight home, and must wait a week for the next flight to Bujumbura. An official for Inter Burundi, whose name is Deo Gravius Habonyama, said the team would have to move to a cheaper hotel. And just by the way, the match finished 0-0.

I know there are some honourable exceptions around, one of them currently mucking about with elephants, but so many of our top sporting people are pretty colourless folk. Few compare with Squire John Myrton, whose memoirs come up for sale at Sotheby's on Monday. Myrton was a sports writer's dream in an age when the sports writer was unknown: a totally committed hunting, shooting and racing man. He spent his life putting his horse at the highest fences, and falling off a great deal. He drank eight bottles of port a day, before he switched to brandy. He once galloped full speed over a rabbit warren to see if his horse would fall. It did. On another occasion, he set fire to his nightshirt to frighten away an attack of hiccups. After he had been rescued by two friends, badly burned, he was delighted that the experiment had worked: no hiccups. In the last 15 years of his life, he managed to spend half a million pounds on nothing, which, considering he died in 1976, took a great deal of doing. He died, aged 38, in a debtors' prison.

The two major broadcasting unions, ACTT and BETA, are holding their annual conferences this weekend. For both unions these will be difficult events.

They will have to decide how to react to the welter of initiatives coming from the ITV companies. In varying degrees of radicalism, these initiatives all threaten the structure of agreements, practices and, most crucially, rewards built up over the past 30 years in ITV.

It would be easy to depict the present situation as a farago of excess and outrage - the alleged £92,000 earned by a TV-am technician covering the Zeebrugge disaster, and so on - which will now be cleaned up because Mrs Thatcher has got her tanks on the laws of the ITV companies. And, yes, there is a grain of truth in this tabloid picture. With luck, however, most of the ACTT and BETA delegates will carry a subtler version of the existing reality in their heads and will resist the temptation to react wildly to being cast as the villains in this kind of sensational story.

The bedrock agreements in ITV were made 30 years ago when television production was in a primitive phase. Programmes were transmitted live, or "as for live" - that is,

recorded on videotape but put out on unedited hours or days later. (Since video in those days had to be edited with a razor blade and sticky tape, it scarcely allowed for more sophisticated kinds of production.)

Punitive clauses were inserted in the agreements to discourage the ITV companies from exploiting their workers by making them work endlessly long hours or without reasonable breaks.

The nature of television production changed over the years; the agreements didn't. Programmes began to be shot entirely on location, and needed flexibility; the employers had to buy it by paying for the consequences of breaking the penalty clauses.

They needed many hours of editing in post-production suites; those who worked in them could jack up their earnings by agreeing to break the penalty clauses - and then either

delay the building of more editing suites or ensure that when they were built they were staffed in a style appropriate to the old technology but not the new. Agreements designed to prevent exploitation now became effective weapons of plunder.

ITV managers knew what was happening but for years thought themselves powerless to resist it. The 1979 strike, when screens were blank for 11 weeks, demonstrated that the workforce could outlast the management in that kind of confrontation.

Three things have changed. The revenue monopoly is going; next year people will be able to buy up to an additional 12 TV channels from satellite services, most of them carrying advertising, and shortly thereafter there will almost certainly be another terrestrial channel available to the majority of the country, that too financed by advertising.

The production monopoly has

gone already; the independent sector created by Channel 4 six years ago is taking over some ITV production now, and will take more and more in the next few years. (One study, done by the economic consultants NERA, suggests that any ITV company that does nothing in the face of these changes will be bankrupt by 1992.)

The ITV companies know they have to change; they also know they can enforce change if they have to. Thames, Ulster and Tyne Tees have shown it is possible to keep transmitting during short-lived strikes; TV-am during long ones.

The unions know all this, which is why they are willing to see reform. The danger this weekend is that they will want to try to negotiate reform nationally, through the ITV Association, rather than allow new local agreements to be thrashed out in individual companies. The decision earlier this week by

Tyne Tees unilaterally to leave the national agreements will provide a plausible rallying point for those who want to adopt this tactic.

That would be wrong, not because the ITV companies want to divide and rule, but because such a decision would cut against the grain of what is happening in broadcasting. The companies are more and more becoming rivals and commercial competitors and less and less colleagues in a monolithic system. We need different agreements.

The companies already compete with one another to provide programmes to Channel 4, and now also for the ITV "flexipool", the quota of network programmes not made under the guarantees given the five major companies. If they have any sense they will want to compete with one another (and other suppliers) for commissions from the new TV channels. They will

have to compete - with one another and with the existing facilities houses - for the production of the programmes they have lost to the independent producers and, if they wish, for non-broadcast work like corporate videos and commercials.

To do this we need to start from the same position as those in the independent sector, not handicapped with the lumber acquired over the past 30 years. The national agreements should cover basic pay, holidays, working hours and a common disputes machinery; after that each to his own: charging premiums for quality, offering discounts for geography or volume, whatever commercial judgement suggests, not what restrictive practices dictate.

ITV is not Fleet Street before Wapping. Technology is not wiping out a swathe of jobs and an entire union with it. The shooting and editing skills of the ACTT, the set and costume skills of BETA, will be needed as much as ever. The difference is that in future everyone in ITV will have to earn their rewards rather than rely on the old guarantees to deliver them. This scarcely seems to justify a scenario of violent confrontation.

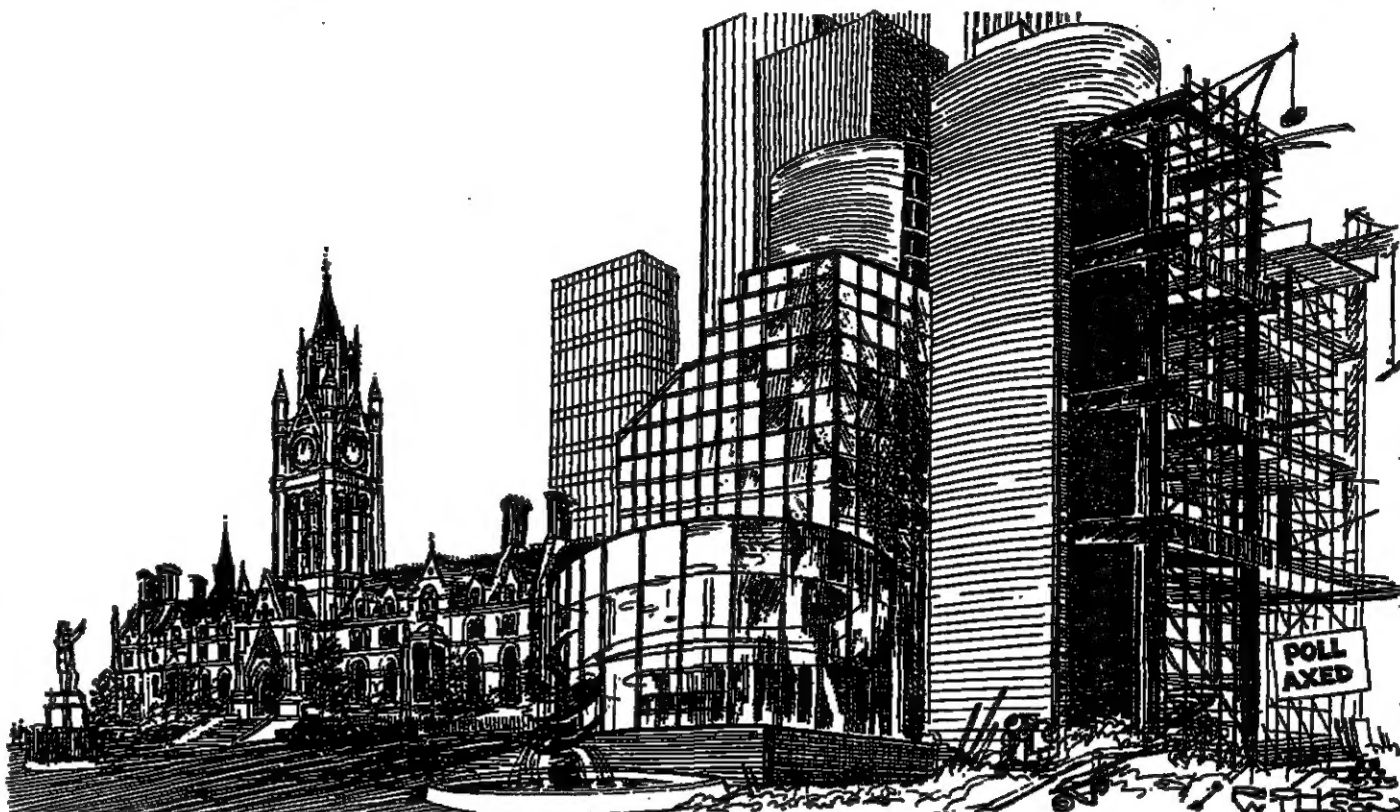
The author is Director of Corporate Affairs, LWT.

Barry Cox on the unions' need to go along with reform

Please, no TV shoot-out

Woodrow Wyatt

Soaking the rich twice over



gainers in a few of the low-spending areas, mainly in the Tory shires. However, if there were a local chancellor of the exchequer enjoying the power to present a budget and levy taxes on an unprecedented examination of everyone's income tax returns supplied by the Inland Revenue, I doubt it.

As assessments would take two years to filter through many would find themselves, if their incomes were reduced, paying local income tax on an out-of-date tax set when their income was higher.

Capital revaluation of domestic property is the final refuge of the opponents of the community charge: the last was in 1973. A new one would produce startling results. A couple who lived in a gentrified area in London or elsewhere and had bought or inherited their home years ago when it was worth, say, £20,000 would be clobbered. Their home could be valued at anything from £70,000 to £500,000. Their rates would be many times more than any community charge and those who could not afford them would cruelly have to move away from their roots and their friends to an area where property had not been gentrified.

No scheme for paying for local services could be perfect but the planned community charges for the well off are already so disproportionate that making them higher would be excessively punitive and produce little. The charge on the less well off is reasonable and that on the least well off is nil unless they are unable to force a high-spending council to cut its expenditure to the national average.

The icing on the cake is the new national non-domestic rate and the non-domestic revaluation which will transfer £700 million a year from the richer regions to the poorer, enabling the latter to attract new businesses and reduce unemployment - something that should delight Mr Heseltine.

On Monday the Conservative backbencher Michael Mates will press an amendment to the community charge Bill in the Commons. It panders to the spirit of envy much fanned by some bishops. Non-taxpayers would pay 50 per cent of the community charge; taxpayers on the basic rate 100 per cent; and single persons and couples living together, married or not, would pay 150 per cent instantly their single or combined income attracted £1 of the 40 per cent income tax rate.

This would be chaotic. The four million or so on income support under the Government's scheme will get an 80 per cent rebate on their community charge. Their income support will be increased to enable them to pay the remaining 20 per cent. This increase will be based on the national average community charge. On Thursday Nicholas Ridley, the Environment Secretary, announced improvements to the rebate scheme. An extra 1 million will get them and there will be higher rebates for another 4 million. Altogether 9 million people will now benefit from generous rebates with a sliding scale.

Mr Mates' scheme, under which non-taxpayers would have to pay 50 per cent of the community charge, would mean grafting a new and complex scheme on to an already complex scheme on to an already complex scheme. Most rebate recipients have incomes below the income tax threshold. For them rebates would have to continue; otherwise they would be worse off under Mr Mates' scheme. And even with a combination of rebates and the Mates scheme many would find, on becoming taxpayers, their community charge suddenly leaping to 100 per cent - in some cases an increase of several hundred pounds.

Those who paid one and a half times the community charge would be victims of gross injustice. Even after the last Budget the top 10 per cent of households

with the highest incomes will pay around 15 times more for the same local services as the bottom 10 per cent. This is because half of all local expenditure comes from the Government out of taxation already levied on a redistributive basis. Just over a quarter comes from the new business or national non-domestic rates. Less than a quarter comes from local domestic residents.

Mr Mates wants all those with a taxable income of £19,300 and above to suffer further massive redistribution by paying a community charge 50 per cent more than anyone else.

This is a higher earner disincentive trap. The surcharge in high-spending areas would be substantial, rising to £800 a year a head for some: a form of surreptitious local income tax. Treating couples as one would mean around 2 million individ-

uals paying the increased charge. But nationally this piece of socialist-type spite would raise only around £200 million a year and the savings to basic taxpayers paying the normal community charge would not be more than about £5. Mr Mates and his Conservative supporters seem to be in the wrong party.

If local authorities spent no more than the national average the community charge would produce far more gainers than losers at all levels. The arrangements for distributing government grant and business rates will ensure that every council could charge exactly the same for a standard level of services. In 1987/88 this figure would have been £178 per adult. In future this figure, updated, will appear on every person's community charge bill. All will see at once whether their

council is levying a community charge higher than it need be. Any variation in spending up or down will be reflected pound for pound in the community charge.

Once community charge payers realize that its level is set not by the Government but by the above-average or low spending of their local council they will vote wasters out and the prudent in. This applies equally to those on income support who can vote against wasteful councils which force them to pay £1 or so a week more than the 20 per cent payment they have received personally to hand to the council and for councils whose prudence lets them keep some of it.

The Liberals and the new and the old SDP denounce the community charge, preferring local income tax to rates. On April 8 Mr Roy Hattersley said Labour's policy is a "new property tax, calculated on capital

values..." plus "local income tax levelled only at a few pence in the pound..." in conjunction with a new rating system.

Local income tax? This would mean 402 chancellors of the exchequer, many of them on the extreme left, a prospect too gruesome to contemplate. On average it would increase the rate of income tax by 6p in the pound. But there would be horrific variations. Camden's current expenditure would require local income tax of 25.6 per cent to be added to normal income tax. There would be a mass exodus to next door Barnet where the tax would be 5.9 per cent.

Local income tax for a single adult would have to be vastly in excess of his proposed community charge throughout most of London and other high-spending areas, though a couple might not come to much harm or might be

Commentary • PETER BRIMELOW

Coke on the shelf

New York. During the 1960 US presidential election the Democratic candidate, John F. Kennedy, made loud, indignant noises about the so-called "missile gap" - a dangerous Soviet edge in strategic weapons that the senescent Eisenhower administration had allegedly allowed to develop. This enabled Kennedy to discomfit his Republican opponent, Vice-President Richard Nixon, by outflanking him on the right. After Kennedy won, the missile gap was discovered to be spurious and quietly forgotten.

This year's version of the missile gap is the drug war. The Reagan administration has more than tripled its anti-drug spending to \$2.5 billion and has achieved record interceptions and arrests. But still it has been quite unable to stem the flow of illicit drugs. Pitched battles between rival drug dealers - the most murderous are gangs of Jamaican illegal immigrants - have become more horrific and destructive of innocent life, with the worst effects confined to the black ghettos.

However, the drug issue is currently enjoying one of those periodic 15-minute bursts of elite media attention that are so much a part of the American scene.

Democratic strategists hope that growing fiercely about drug dealers will enable them to unite two components of their traditional electoral coalition, blacks and the white working class, that seem otherwise mutually estranged. The Rev Jesse Jackson's regular anti-drug pieties constitute a major part of his shaky claim to legitimacy. A recent poll suggested that Americans now think that fighting

drugs is more important than fighting communism, emboldening the Democrats to smear America's allies in Central America and Afghanistan with charges of drug-dealing.

But it is much less clear what the Democrats can actually do about drugs, beyond spending more federal money subsidizing addicts. Neither they nor anyone else has the stomach for the ruthless measures with which Third World countries suppress the drug trade.

America has lost the drug war, just as earlier in the century, despite Prohibition, it lost the war against alcohol. Although no practising politician will admit it, legalizing drugs is now the only rational option.

Drug use poses two quite separate problems for a society like America. One is the effect on individual users. Anywhere between 2 to 6 million people are supposed to be drug-dependent here, and estimates of yearly drug-related deaths range into the tens of thousands. But at least drug users do it to themselves. And many more deaths are caused each year by the legalized drugs, alcohol and nicotine - an estimated 100,000 and 320,000 respectively.

The second problem is more critical: forcing the drug trade underground puts too much money into criminal hands. Total illicit drug revenues in the US are estimated at a staggering \$60-160 billion. Profit margins are thought to be as high as 90 per cent. In any shoot-out with drug smugglers, it is not clear that the US authorities can muster the financial firepower.

Nor can corruption be prevented. In rural Georgia, where smugglers' light aircraft fly in

every night, local sheriffs reportedly have been offered \$100,000 bribes for each plane they allow to unload unmolested. This sort of temptation is more than flesh and blood can resist. Corruption cases involving US law enforcement officers now total about 100 a year and are climbing.

Legalization will not eliminate social policy options. Exhortation and peer-group pressure can still be used to reduce drug consumption. After all, these methods seem to be working with tobacco and alcohol.

Policy-makers could also manipulate the pricing of drugs through taxation. Experience with mildly addictive drugs like alcohol suggest that people will pay very high taxes before they revert to bathtub gin, perhaps because dealing with criminals is dangerous and drinking their products can cause your eyeballs to fall out. Making highly addictive drugs cheaper could reduce robberies. Or the price could be kept high to discourage new consumers and those already addicted supplied directly. There would be more money for such subsidies: what was a burden to the Treasury would now be a revenue raiser.

The drugs issue probably won't work for the Democrats in 1988. Domestically, George Bush can outbid by proposing the death penalty for dealers. And a true anti-drug foreign policy would raise embarrassing questions about Castro and other communist leaders on Jesse Jackson's kiss list.

But politics are no substitute for policy. Ultimately, the disagreeable drug reality will have to be faced.

The author is a senior editor with Fortes Magazine.

SCIENCE REPORT

All enveloping

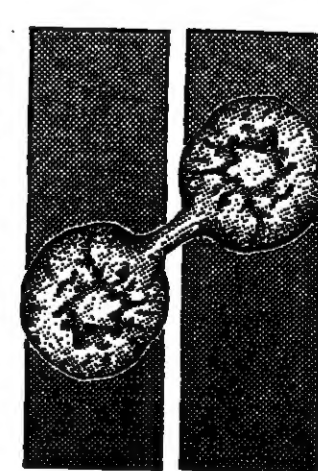
The membranes envelope each cell and not just an inert packaging material but plays a central role in the duplication of the chromosomes in the nucleus that accompany cell division. This surprising result, reported in *Nature*, upsets previous assumptions that the nuclear envelope has only a minor part to play.

The control of cell division is a key issue in cancer research, since control malfunctions are the hallmarks of cancer cells. But before understanding the malfunctions, it is necessary to know exactly what goes on inside normal, healthy cells.

Dr Julian Blow and Professor Ronald Laskey, working at the Cancer Research Campaign Unit in the Zoology Department at Cambridge University, want to know, in particular, why DNA in chromosomes replicates only once, before stopping. The eventual outcome is two sets of chromosomes, one for each of the pair of daughter cells resulting from single cell division.

To simplify their studies, Blow and Laskey have developed a test-tube version of cell division composed of extracts from the eggs of the African clawed toad, a favourite laboratory animal.

At a particular point in the cell cycle, just after DNA replication but before the whole cell splits in two, the nuclear envelope becomes permeable or even disappears. Blow and Laskey find that DNA replication in the



Paul Bryant

test-tube can also not proceed beyond one cycle without such changes in the structure of the nuclear envelope.

Earlier work by Blow had shown that the presence of the nuclear envelope was necessary for DNA replication. But neither of the two existing models of the control of DNA replication explained results in which the humble nuclear envelope played such a starring role.

Instead, Blow came up with a new model of DNA replication which has an elegant simplicity. More importantly, it explains all the results. The breakdown of the nuclear envelope allows a hypothetical biochemical called Licensing Factor (LF) to invade the nucleus.

By the time the nuclear envelope reforms around chromosomes within daughter cells, LF has bonded to various

parts of the chromosome, allowing the DNA to replicate.

Once the DNA has replicated, the LF cannot be used again and no more fresh LF can get into the nucleus once the nuclear envelope has been reconstituted.

This model explains why, in higher organisms (whose nuclei are constrained by the nuclear envelope), replication is a once-only affair, while in bacteria (which do not have discrete nuclei as such) replication is a continuous, ongoing process.

Possession of discrete nuclei distinguishes higher organisms from bacteria and viruses, so the promotion of the nuclear envelope as a structure of central importance has a kind of natural justice.

Many questions remain unanswered. For example, the initial trigger of nuclear envelope breakdown which lets LF gain entry to the nucleus is still a matter of debate. A possible answer is a protein called Maturation Promoting Factor, a substance already known to be deeply involved in the cell cycle.

Meanwhile, Blow and Laskey continue the search for Licensing Factor. Isolating such a substance poses technical problems. Because the test tube recipe for DNA replication is quite complicated, with many special ingredients, devising an assay for LF could be difficult. But evidence so far points to it being a protein.

HENRY GEE

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ROAD BLOCK AHEAD

Since roads are the place of traffic jams and warden, of clamp, crush, crash, and personal ill-temper, it is perhaps remarkable how little party political passion they have engendered in postwar Britain. For the most part, road programmes set in train by one government have been faithfully carried into effect by another; the regulation of traffic and drivers has sparked little electoral disagreement.

Both main parties have been in their time in favour of motorway boxes around big cities. Both have pumped money into the rail network in the South-east to allow commuters to come to work in the City. Even in this decade, transport policy has (with the exception of Mr Livingston's schemes) been low in the list of public controversies.

Building the A1-M1 link does not stir the hearts of socialists. The current Conservative Transport Secretary, Mr Paul Channon, can put a large sum of money into the Settle-Carlisle railway line without provoking squalls on his right.

This is a good spirit in which to look to the future, especially the future carriage of people and goods within the conurbation of London. The series of articles in *The Times* this week returned more than once to the stark prediction that road traffic in Britain as a whole will increase by nearly a third in volume by the century's end. Within London commuting by car may rise by some 50 per cent in the 20 years between the beginning of this decade and the year 2000.

Such volumes demand not just imaginative management of the roads, but a deep reservoir of public patience while investment schemes come to fruition. In a congested city no work of repair or reconstruction can be accomplished without major disruption.

There still exists a wide agreement on what needs to be done. Few even on the London left fail now to understand that the more revenue subsidies there are on ticket prices, the less money there is for capital expenditure to expand and modernize capacity on London's rail network. There exists a wide swathe of common ground between them, the current management of London Regional Transport and the Westminster politicians to whom, in the absence of any governing body for London, LRT answers.

What needs to be done, and urgently, is to improve the traffic flow in London — not least to avoid a repetition to the huge jams that have occurred more than once during the last six months and threatened to immobilize the entire central area. New roadside traffic

controls, the prospective Autoguide system, and a series of relatively small scale information technology and civil engineering schemes could quickly leave a mark, possibly even squeeze an extra 15 per cent capacity out of the road system.

Every London motorist has a list of the worst bottlenecks, and most of them (having had plenty of time to reflect on the matter while sitting waiting to move) could, if asked, give the engineers suggestions for relief. There is no case, at the moment, to rush into large-scale road-building in the capital, beyond such obvious improvements as the South Circular Road.

What is missing from the Government's approach is a sense that the options for transport in the capital in the 1990s, and especially the balance between commuting by car and by train, are being seriously canvassed. There is indeed a strong suspicion that policy making is left with the various road and rail lobbies, or with their surrogates in the Department of Transport. The auguries for coordination are poor.

The Government has, sometimes inadvertently, shown an antipathy towards public transportation as if it were unaware of the mounting economic disadvantages of private car use in the capital. It is a simple, inescapable fact that London will only be kept on the move, and London's businesses kept alive, by a functioning public transport system.

The key word is system. The Government believes, rightly, that buses do not have to be operated by LRT on every route in the capital. But routes (operated by private contractors) have to mesh; there must be connections between surface and underground links; some central authority needs to delineate new routes and identify areas under-provided with service.

Ultimately, it is only public authority, whether exercised directly by the Department of Transport or delegated to a London transport body, which can take what may have to be the next step in planning London's movement in the next decade: financial or physical deterrence of private cars from the most congested areas. Controversy over clamping indicates how even the public's broad assent to transport policy might be tested by such a development.

Banning cars from areas of the city would not be popular. But the Government really has no option but to start thinking such unpopular thoughts — now.

SALE OF THE CELLARS

The sale by the University of Manchester of certain books from the financially exhausted John Rylands Library has caused widespread indignation. So too has the Government's proposed legislation permitting national museums and galleries to sell works in their collections.

This is wholly understandable. No one likes the idea of selling family heirlooms, even when they are dull, ugly things which very few actually want to see. This has nothing to do with the question. Everyone feels better for knowing that they are in the cellar. Sometimes they are of particular emotional value — when they are in languages we cannot understand, or their acquisition is associated with a romantic legend of piracy or fraud.

One trouble with cellars, however, is their tendency to be damp. Another is that if the family has been distinguished for several centuries by its wealth, power, and artistic taste, after the third century or so the cellars begin to get rather crowded. If you have so much that you no longer even know what you do have, and visit your cellars very infrequently, you may find on your next incursion that time has worked its wicked inartistic way with your priceless bins of art.

This is the trouble, for example, at the British Museum and the Victoria and Albert. Both were accused in the recent report from the National Audit Office of scandalously neglecting the millions of works which lie unexhibited in their collections. Many items are said to be already beyond repair. The task of saving others would swallow more than the museums' entire annual budget.

Meanwhile, there are millionaires in America — and, increasingly, in Asia — who would cheerfully pay fortunes for many of these works, and would exhibit or at least preserve them. Surely, then, the sensible thing would be to sell some of them, for the greater good of the majority?

There are, however, one or two arguments against such sales which are worth considering. In the first place, it is said, this is the prime purpose to a time when the Government will reckon that galleries can support themselves by these means, and will cut subsidies still further. Desperate galleries will then start raffling off their treasures to cover current expenses. This would of course be a disaster. The profit from sales must be spent only on purchase of new works or restoration of old ones. The level of state funding should not change in response to

Secondly, it is said, these works must be kept for reasons of scholarship. In the Rylands library case, the books concerned are not "duplicates" in the strictest sense. Scholars need to be able to lay them side by side to study their differences. Scholars, however, have modern reproduction techniques available to them, and in most cases have no choice but to compare works that are thousands of miles apart. They will have to lump it.

Thirdly, it is argued, works have been bequeathed to the museums concerned. To sell them would be illegal, or at least a breach of trust. The answer to this is that not showing works bequeathed is in any case an implicit breach of trust. To sell off the whole of a particular bequest would be wrong. To sell off some of it to save — and be able to display — the rest is quite justifiable. The prospect of such sales might also ensure that givers and receivers pay attention to the costs as well as the benefits of keeping a precious collection intact.

The proceeds of the sales of some of our mouldering "heritage" could enable us to set up more galleries like the splendid "Northern Tate" in Liverpool, or the suggested (but, it seems, financially impossible) Islamic Museum in London for some of the contents of the V and A cellars.

Lastly, it is argued, no one can know at a given time whether in fifty or a hundred years a work now considered minor may not suddenly be recognized as a masterpiece. The example of Turner is cited, who in the 1920s was generally seen as a very second-rate artist. It must be recognized, however, that the works concerned are hardly likely to be destroyed — at least not unless the new owner's heirs bequeath them back to the V and A. They will still be available for study and reproduction.

There should certainly be some reticence about selling works by British artists, or ones by artists few of whose works exist in Britain. But museums cannot possibly hang onto every work of art they possess — especially in view of the tendency of our age to swoon for an ever shorter time over what is fashionable, then wake up and forget about it, leaving last year's masterpiece to lie gathering dust.

The melancholy truth is that Britain acquired many of its art treasures when it was the richest country the world had ever seen. The world now sees many richer — and the finances of museums and galleries reflect this.

Comfort in the air

From Mr F. G. St Clair Strange
Sir, After long flights, many people experience swelling and uncomfortable stiffness of the ankles.

When walking, the heart pumps the blood into the feet and the calf muscles pump it back at each step. When sitting or standing, the heart continues to pump the blood into the feet but the calf muscles are inactive, with consequent swelling of the ankles.

A simple remedy, when flying, is to exercise the ankles by raising the heels as high as possible off the floor a dozen times or so every half hour, or more after sleeping. A dispatch case or a bar under the

seat in front for the toes to work on is better still.

A 30-second explanation of this at the end of the safety programme on the screens at the beginning of each long-distance flight would enable a great many passengers to complete their journey much more comfortably and would also reduce the risk of thrombosis.

Yours faithfully,
F. G. ST CLAIR STRANGE,
Church Hill House,
Canterbury, Kent.

Fallen citadel

From the Reverend H. F. Jackson
Sir, I very much enjoyed the article by Richard Bassett on

Cetinje, the former capital of Montenegro, in *The Times* of Easter Monday.

However, it is not quite true to say that the royal palace and its museum have been closed for the past six years. It may be closed today, but we toured it in 1982 as part of a fascinating visit to what Mr Bassett rightly describes as "the quaintest royal capital in Europe".

Yours sincerely,
H. F. JACKSON,
The Rectory,
Ash,
Aldershot,
Hampshire,
April 4.

Tax relief in lieu of cash benefits

From Professor Ruth Lister
Sir, Your assessment of the Social Security Act (leader, April 12) betrays the same narrow approach to the reform of social security as that which marred the current legislation.

You argue that the numbers dependent upon housing until recently began "to justify the phrase 'the dependent society'". In fact, as the independent review team established to advise the secretary of state pointed out, because of earlier cutbacks, housing benefit was less generous than the previous rent and rate rebate system and did not go as far up the income scale.

The main reason for the big increase in housing benefit expenditure during the 1980s was the Government's policy of reducing direct housing subsidies, thereby increasing local authority rents. This was justified on the grounds that low-income tenants would be protected by housing benefit.

According to the public expenditure White Paper, in 1987-88, about five million people were in receipt of rent rebates and allowances at a cost of £3.6 million. In the same year, well over eight million people were receiving financial support in the form of mortgage interest tax relief at a cost of £4.75 million.

The exclusion of this particular section of the "dependent society" from the social security review's remit was condemned by bodies right across the political spectrum; the Government's own Social Security Advisory Committee considered it essential that a policy designed to target help on those in greatest need should take account of the distribution of mortgage interest tax relief. It is unclear why state support in the

form of cash benefits is more conducive to dependency than state support in the form of tax relief.

You also argue that disincentives are inherent in any system of social security. This assumes that social security has to be means-tested; it does not. The disincentive problems now created by a revamped means-tested scheme, purportedly designed to improve incentives, strengthen the case for reducing means-testing to a minimum.

A social security system that targeted according to contingency through improved social insurance and child benefits would help to rescue poor people from the income and savings traps that currently penalise thrift and effort. Yours faithfully,
RUTH LISTER,
University of Bradford,
School of Applied Social Studies,
Bradford, West Yorkshire,
April 13.

Paying for a bed

From Miss Mary Evans
Sir, As the arguments wage fast and furious about whether or not patients should pay bed and breakfast charges in NHS hospitals, should not people remember that there is one section of the community that has always paid such charges — old age pensioners?

After a pensioner has been in hospital for eight weeks, the pension is docked by a substantial amount. Is this another example of those who, by and large, cannot afford it being the ones required to pay?

Yours faithfully,
MARY EVANS,
The Chestnuts,
14 Station Lane, Cloughton,
Nr Scarborough, North Yorkshire.

Closed shop ballots

From the General Secretary of the Institute of Journalists
Sir, Your leader of March 30 applauds the Government's intention to do something about the closed shop, at last. Amen and hosanna to that.

But does anyone know how many closed shops exist? Since August 14, 1980, ballots should have been held where closed shops obtained to ascertain whether workers wanted to continue them or not, or to set up new ones. Presumably, where no such ballots have been held, any closed shops are illegal.

My inquiry is not an idle one, since the livelihoods of people who belong to a non-TUC union like mine, or to none, may depend upon knowing.

So I asked Acas, but they don't know. Nor does the Certification Officer for Trades Unions. Moreover, neither sees it as the business of Acas or the Certification Officer to find out. That leaves the Secretary of State for Employment, Mr Norman Fowler.

A censor's touch

From Mr S. St Clair Smallwood
Sir, This morning (April 8) you saw fit to publish a letter from Professor W. G. Forrest of New College, Oxford, who accuses Mrs Thatcher of "destructive nationalism" (whatever that may be), of being devoted to "traditional values", and refers to her "hatred of education". These epithets come under the heading of invective. They are vague, emotive and unworthy of a scholar.

He then goes on to paraphrase Cato, asking, "Is there any law so savage that it translates an intention into an act?"

The answer is, "yes". When I was at preparatory school it was made quite clear to me that the intention to commit a sin, or even the desire to do so, made one morally guilty and stained my soul with the sin as much as if I had indeed committed it. At the time I knew this reasoning to be just and 35 years later I am still sure of it.

Yours faithfully,
S. ST CLAIR SMALLWOOD,
11 Gosacre Lane,
Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

Aglow in Glasgow

From Mr R. C. G. Munton
Sir, With reference to Mr Edward Fennell's article "Aglow in Glasgow" (April 9) may I say that many a happy hour has been spent "lodged in a dark and dismal bar... (glowering) at the world behind a pint of heavy". However I cannot recall Blythswood Square in Glasgow ever being "an honest-to-goodness slum".

Everything is relative in this world, and perhaps during the same years in which Mr Fennell regarded Blythswood Square as an honest-to-goodness slum, he would concede that Belgrave was a deprived area.

I am sure that it will come as a great surprise to many of my fellow practitioners that they should be "amused to snap out of the slightly dizzy torpor which has been the reputation of Glasgow lawyers". Perhaps the dizzy torpor has been induced by over-indulgence in the aforementioned pints of heavy.

Few professionals would survive if they failed to take on new challenges. The patronising manner of Mr Fennell's article detracted from its basically interesting content. One thing which will never change in Glasgow is that few would call a shovel a gardening implement; so cut the flannel, Mr Fennell.

Yours ever,
RONNIE MUNTON,
Wilson Chalmers & Hendry
(Solicitors and notaries),
33A Gordon Street, Glasgow.

Litter that falls between two stools

From Mr Richard Terrell
Sir, I was very glad to read Robin Oakley's "Muck and muddle" (Commentary, April 11).

Here in Camden the distribution of litter is universal. The director of works is responsible for public cleansing, but his task is an impossible one. An important difficulty appears to be a curious gap in the law. Much of the litter is dropped in private or public gardens or parks, between the railings of vacant premises along the pavements, into containers for ornamental trees or bushes, or into any areas of waste land.

There is no legal obligation on the part of any public or private authority or individual to remove any such litter unless, under a section of the Public Health Act of 1949, the local health department takes the view that the litter presents a danger to public health, say from rats or mice. Mere unsightliness affords no ground for action.

If a danger to health is found to exist, the appropriate authority or individual may be ordered to remove the litter and otherwise deal with the danger. Perhaps a closure of the legal gap would help, but the practical task, at this stage, is now very formidable.

It is always possible for people (a) to avoid dropping litter anywhere and to punish children for doing so and (b) occasionally to pick up odd bits of litter and drop them into the nearest bin available. I do so myself almost every day, feeling most eccentric whilst doing so. However, eccentricity has never for long been lacking in this odd part of the world.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD TERRELL,
7 Chester Court,
Lissenden Gardens, NWS,
April 11.

From Mr M. Goldstone
Sir, I read with interest the commentary of Robin Oakley. I agree with him that the implementation of existing litter law remains a farce.

Gagging the IRA

From Mr Conor Ryan
Sir, Dr Conor Cruise O'Brien (April 6) is mistaken if he believes that the ban on IRA appearances which he introduced in the Republic of Ireland has cut off a vital avenue of propaganda. Indeed, if anything, it has created a new one.

Since his introduction of Section 31 of the Irish Broadcasting Act in 1975, the IRA and their political wing, Sinn Féin, have had acres of positive and sympathetic publicity in the Irish media about the censorship inherent in his measure. Irish newspaper columnists regularly devote their pieces to it — and martyrs are created among those who deliberately defy it.

No more than the banning of *Spycatcher* or the rather overblown nonsense over mediocre BBC TV programmes like *Real Lives*, the exclusion of Gerry Adams and other elected Sinn Féin members from British screens would merely create martyrs abroad. While both the Irish and British governments are seeking to sell the Anglo-Irish Agreement in the United States and to starve Nord of funds, it would be an exercise of the utmost folly. Yours faithfully,
CONOR RYAN,
77 Ashbourne Road,
Mitcham, Surrey.

Voices under the Lord

From Mr Frank Steele
Sir, Unlike Mr Ben Harte's birds in New York (April 4), the birds in this part of Westminster appear to favour Protestantism. The western side of our flat looks across the front of Westminster Cathedral (Roman Catholic) and our eastern side faces towards Westminster Abbey (Protestant), though it is half a mile away.

Despite the greater distance of the abbey and the efforts of the pigeons in the piazza outside the cathedral, the sparrows which feed in the window boxes on our western (Catholic) balcony and the occasional pigeon which tries to rest in them, the bird song on our eastern (Protestant) side is much more varied, tuneful and loud. The geese which occasionally in the early mornings honk along Victoria Street immediately to our north seem to be neutral.

However, before any Protestant should be so unbecomingly as to rejoice at the apparently superior attractions of the Protestant abbey over the Catholic cathedral, I should comment that there are many more trees and shrubs outside our eastern (Protestant) windows than the four trees in the cathedral piazza. Yours faithfully,
FRANK STEELE,
9 Ashley Gardens, SW1.

From Mr Roland D. Clarke
Sir, I was interested to read Ben Harte's letter (April 4). I formerly lived for 30 years in Flood Street, Chelsea, and can clearly remember the hooting of owls in the neighbourhood. The nearest church was Christ Church (Anglican).

I now live next door to the Hurlingham Club in Fulham and the screeching of peacocks can be frequently heard. The Hurlingham Club is about equidistant from the Catholic church of the Holy Cross and the Anglican church of All Saints. Clearly, peacocks are ecumenical. Yours faithfully,
ROLAND D. CLARKE,
150 Rivermead Court,
Ranelagh Gardens, SW6.

A few weeks ago I took my young son into MacDonald's, in Romford, as he seems to thrive on a Big Mac now and again. There were literally hundreds of take-away cartons strewn all over the pavements and gutters. I asked the manager why on earth he did not send out some of his staff, say once an hour, to collect all the garbage. He told me that since one of his staff was stabbed whilst picking up some cartons and others of his staff are regularly threatened, he now does the clean-up operation only once a day.

Perhaps you could pass the problem on to Bernard Levin who, I am sure, would come up with a better answer than I have failed miserably so to do.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL GOLDSTONE,
24 Eleven Acre Rise,
Loughton, Essex.

From Mrs C. D. Wood
Sir, In the beautiful (and litter-free) city of Dubrovnik, the street cleaners will fine you if you are caught in the messy British habit of dropping litter in a public place. Half the fine is retained by them and the other half paid to the city fathers.

So simple a sample of private enterprise is surely worth imitating.

Yours etc,
DOROTHY WOOD,
26 Kennerley Avenue,
Exeter, Devon.

ON THIS DAY

APRIL 16 1873

ROME AND NAPLES.
(From an occasional correspondent.)

NAPLES, April 10.
Rome has been fuller this winter than it has been for many years, which is far from being a fulfilment of the clerical prophecy uttered in 1870. At that time it was predicted that the city of the Pope would be deserted by foreigners, whose principal attraction was the gorgeous ceremonies of St. Peter's. Notwithstanding, however, that these have been suspended and that the Russians have contributed a large quota of our visitors, and added much to the prestige of Naples and Sorrento...

Verdi leaves Naples to-day after a series of ovations such as has scarcely been given to patriot or King. On Saturday *Aida* was performed for the last time under his special direction, and furious as was the enthusiasm which the "maestro" received on other occasions it was exceeded by the tempest of last Saturday. To say nothing of what occurred within the house, on his leaving it two lines of persons were discovered, bearing torches in their hands, which extended from San Carlo to his hotel in Chiaia. It was a difficult matter for him to enter his carriage, so great was the pressure of friends and admirers, and when he did so, many of those carrying torches followed him in cabs, while a long line of carriages, filled by ladies and others of the audience, accompanied him. This, however, was not sufficient, for the crowd insisted on taking the horses out of the shafts, and then drawing the "Gran Maestro", as he is called, to his hotel. Here a band of the National Guard was stationed, and the shouts of the crowd were so continuous that Verdi was compelled to show himself at the balcony 17 times according to correct calculation.

During the last few days he has, of course, been overwhelmed by visitors and cards, and Verdi will leave to-day as the man whom Naples has delighted to honour more almost than her political saviours. The Impresario Musella, too, has won his laurels, and whereas last year at this time he was covered with abuse, he is now exalted, if not to the Seventh, at least to the Sixth, Heaven. In which celestial compartment to place Madame Stolz or Madame Waldmaier it would be difficult to say. *Aida* has certainly been presented to a Neapolitan audience with splendid effect, and by a brilliant company, and the financial results have been satisfactory. On the first four nights the receipts amounted to 48,000 lire, and on the last occasion to 11,195 lire. It has now been performed six times, and, though Verdi was not present on the last two occasions, it seems to grow in public favour. An excursion train is expected from Rome with some hundreds of persons to hear the great opera. It is to arrive in time for the performance, and will leave again at 2 in the morning. Who would have dreamt of such a feat a quarter of a century ago, when one left Rome by the diligence early in the morning of one day and arrived in Naples in the afternoon or evening of the next day? It is satisfactory to witness marks of progress on every side.



COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE

April 15: The King of Norway, with the Queen, the Prince and Princess, arrived at Windsor Castle this morning upon the conclusion of the State Visit to The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh.

The Princess Royal this morning named and launched HMS Talent, the sixth of the Royal Navy's Trafalgar Class of Hunter Killer Nuclear Fleet submarines, at Vickers Shipyard, Barrow-in-Furness.

Her Royal Highness travelled in an aircraft of the Queen's Flight and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Cumbria (Sir Charles Graham, Bt), the Lord Chalfont (Non Executive Chairman of VSEL Consortium) and the Controller of the Navy (Vice-Admiral Sir Derek Reffell).

The Princess Royal and Captain Mark Phillips this evening attended an Anniversary Dinner to celebrate the formation of the Thames Valley Police at the Thames Valley Training School, Uxbridge.

Her Royal Highness and Captain Mark Phillips were received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for the County of Berkshire (Colonel the Hon Gordon Palmer) and the Chief Constable, Thames Valley Police (Mr Colin Smith).

Mrs Charles Ritchie was in attendance.

By command of The Queen, the Earl of Airlie (Lord Chamberlain) was present at Heathrow Airport, London this afternoon upon the departure of The King of Norway and bade farewell to His Majesty on behalf of Her Majesty.

CLARENCE HOUSE

April 15: Lieutenant-Colonel Derek Lawrence-Brown today had the honour of being received by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Colonel the Chief, The King's Regiment, upon relinquishing his appointment as Commanding Officer of the 5th/8th Battalion.

Lieutenant-Colonel Roger Hislop also had the honour of being received by Her Majesty upon assuming his appointment as Commanding Officer of the 5th/8th Battalion, The King's Regiment.

KENSINGTON PALACE April 15: The Prince of Wales this morning at Kensington Palace received Dr T. H. B. Symons (the Viner Professor Trent University Canada, Chairman of the 75th Anniversary of the Association of Commonwealth Universities).

His Royal Highness, President, The Prince's Trust, later visited the Work, Sport and Leisure Seminar Week at Ladbroke's Holiday Super Centre, Caister on Sea, Norfolk.

The Prince of Wales subsequently visited Caister Lifeboat Station.

His Royal Highness, attended by Mr David Wright and Major Christopher Lavender, travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight.

The Princess of Wales, Patron, Gloucestershire County Cricket Club, this evening attended a Gala Performance of Song and Dance at the Bristol Hippodrome.

Miss Anne Beckwith-Smith and Commander Richard Aylard, RN were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE April 15: The Duchess of Gloucester, President of Oundle Festival of Music and Drama, was present this evening at the Singers' Workshop at the Music School, Oundle, Northamptonshire.

The Queen of Denmark celebrates her birthday today.

Meeting

France-British Society

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayores were the guests of honour at a meeting of the Franco-British Society held last night at Guildhall. Mr James Hadley, chairman, president and the Marquess of Lansdowne, president, also spoke. Mr Olivier Chevillon, Directeur des Musées de France, was the guest speaker and the French Ambassador was among others present.

THE IZMIT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE—TURKEY

ACTING THROUGH THE ANATOLIAN-TURKISH BUREAU (FINANCE & EXPORT) DIVISION—CARPETS OZPEC HALICK S.A., TURKEY, AUTHORIZATION No. 1019-10774

NOW INSTRUCT THE DISPOSAL OF AUTHORIZED AND REGISTERED CONSIGNMENTS OF HAND KNOTTED ANATOLIAN-TURKISH WOOLLEN AND SILK CARPETS AND RUGS BY

PUBLIC AUCTION

This carefully assembled collection of many thousands of superior examples of the history of design in area of Ottoman influence through the centuries illustrates the glory and history of the Sultans of the Ottoman Empire. Divided into consignments, graded and quality controlled, these were to promote Turkish-Anatolian trade and boost export earnings by showing and explaining, the superior value of Anatolian rugs.

Prohibitive exhibition expenses and promotional documentation costs into English as well as important deficit now require these examples to be sold at auction together with an Iranian consignment of late Pahlavi period rugs.

TWO PUBLIC AUCTIONS

TODAY, SATURDAY APRIL 16th AT 11.00am VIEWING FROM 10.00am

TOMORROW, SUNDAY APRIL 17th AT 3.00pm VIEWING FROM 2.00pm AT THE SALE ROOM OF

A. WELLESLEY BRISCOE & PARTNERS LTD., BOXBY PLACE, OFF SEAGRAVE RD., LONDON SW6 Tel: 01-381 8558. Fax: 01-381 4262

Directions: Travelling West along Old Brompton Road, take first turning left after West Brompton tube station into Seagrave Road—take first left into Boxby Place.

Terms of payment: cheque, cash and all major credit cards.

Anthony Baxter

Reflections on the risen Christ

For Christians, how should the risen Christ be conceived? And what is to be seen as the importance for people of Jesus's resurrection? Care is needed, lest matters here be understated.

One way of thinking in faith about Jesus is this: Jesus is in the same kind of relationship with God that God purposes for all human beings. At Jesus's death, God did not allow him simply to be annihilated. Rather, God lovingly drew him through death to God himself, to heaven where Jesus, as a whole person, is alive. What occurs to Jesus beyond death comprises an instance of what can occur to all beyond death.

For this way of thinking, the risen Jesus is an individual human being on a track running parallel to the tracks of other human individuals, including ourselves, are on. But Jesus is ahead of us earthly pilgrims, and has already reached that fulfiling which forms the destination of a journey upon which we are still labouring. Our hope is ultimately, by God's grace, to enjoy a risen life similar to Jesus's.

Where God's raising Jesus is conceived thus, attention tends to focus on two sets of factors. On the one hand, how certain human beings came to hold that God had raised Jesus. On the other, what the resurrection of Jesus reveals about the God who did the raising, and about this God's relations with our world.

As regards how people came to believe that God had raised Jesus, reconstructions may be advanced of what lies behind the appearance-of-Jesus narratives in the New Testament. Many commentators today link such reconstructions both with certain first-century Jewish expectations of a general resurrection of the dead, and with possible widespread affirmations that there exists a God who gives life to human beings beyond the grave.

Also involved here can be examination of the New Testament narratives about the tomb into which Jesus's corpse was put, being later found empty.

Various possible scenarios can be appraised. Such inquiries are distinct from assessment of whether being a whole human person with God after death, the same person as on earth but transformed, itself entails presence of some of the matter which, for example, at death formed the earthly body.

Jesus of Nazareth taught and lived out various practical values, which challenged familiar tendencies of earthly powers. He trusted that he, and the values, would be vindicated by God. God's action in raising Jesus and displaying the raised Jesus to others comprised such vindication. God therein confirmed that the values of Jesus are indeed God's values, and ones we in our turn should espouse. If we do, we may confidently hope to be upheld also by God.

Jesus of Nazareth made more elaborate claims about God's coming Kingdom, and about his own place in this. God's vindication extends to these claims.

The persons in Palestine who received appearances of the raised Jesus already envisaged that there would be a definitive End-time, at which God's glory and power would be fully manifest, and when the dead would be raised. On seeing the raised Jesus, they said to themselves: "This is an instance of God raising the dead. That occurs only at the End. Thus the End has begun."

Our lives and our world are not closed systems, but open to God's power and God's continual creation of fresh opportunities, even amidst sombre human circumstances. Now the above broad style of portraying the mode, and importance, of Jesus's risen life contains valuable insights. It should be developed. Yet there is another, complementary, style of portrayal which also calls for notice.

After Jesus's death, and the associated demoralization of his closest companions, there came to be crystallized among those companions, plus an expanding number of followers, some striking

convictions, reached somehow on the basis of their experience. The convictions were not only that Jesus has been raised, and again that redemption and newness are now available to people accepting his message. The convictions included that Jesus, distinctively, is to people following him the key ongoing source or medium of divine grace, power, forgiveness, of 'salvation'.

Paul appears to have been impelled to think of Christ as one in whose death and risen life other people could share, and he caught up Acts, Hebrews, 1 Peter and the Johannine writings on their face seem more to depict the risen Christ as an exalted individual. Yet even here, Christ, relating to the divine Father, is seen as actively engaged with people on earth, and his saving work turns on this.

Modern expressions of Christian faith should retain and develop this vein of thought, despite the difficulties in lucidly grasping what is at stake. Jesus is not just an individual on a track parallel to ours. We can be embraced within the life of the crucified but risen Christ, in his relationship with the Father. Thereby—not through our own resources—we can be changed, drawn towards the fullness God purposes. ('We' here does not ultimately mean just 'Christians'.)

Hence to the eyes of faith, the importance of Jesus is not simply that Jesus's earthly life plus resurrection appearances provide a window on to, a disclosure of, a reality, namely God in his dealings with the human race, from which Jesus himself is in principle detached.

Jesus is not merely a herald or prophet. Our relations with the earthly life, death and resurrection of Jesus are such that Jesus plays an intrinsic causal role in the reality of God's dealings with our race, of salvation, and of the End-time; while also serving to reveal that reality.

Father Baxter is lecturer in systematic theology at Heythrop College, University of London.

THE THYSSEN MASTERPIECES



Portrait of precision

Detail from Portrait of a Man, by Antonello da Messina (c1430-1479): Although a Sicilian by birth, he learned his art in Naples and made his name in Venice.

The sharply lit face against a dark background is a device he used to great effect, combined with the painstaking attention to detail (even the stubble of his beard has been carefully delineated, almost hair by hair).

Mr David Ekserdjian, the author of the exhibition catalogue, writes: "It was the clarity, directness and precision of portraits such as this that were to influence Antonello's contemporaries, Giovanni Bellini, and ultimately even those giants of the next generation in Venice, Giorgione and Titian".

The portrait is one of those on show in the Thyssen-Bornemisza Collection, sponsored by The Times, at the Royal Academy until June 12.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.P.M. Craig and Miss F.A. Roberts
The engagement is announced between James, son of Sir James Craig, of Pimlico, London, and Lady Craig, of Headington, Oxford, and Ann, daughter of Mr and Mrs B. Roberts, of Maysia, Swansea.

Mr J. Fern and Miss K.P. Burnford
The engagement is announced between Jeremy, youngest son of Mr and Mrs K.A. Fern, of Carshalton, Surrey, and Katharine, eldest daughter of Dr and Mrs A.M. Burnford, of Barley, Hertfordshire.

Mr J.W. Hackett and Miss L.S. Carr
The engagement is announced between Jon Winthrop, son of Mr and Mrs John W. Hackett, of Hereford, and Lucinda Shaun (Cid), youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Neale Carr, of Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire.

Mr B.S. Hutton and Miss P. Greenwood
The engagement is announced between Barry Stephen, elder son of Mr and Mrs W.S. Hutton, of Scarborough, Yorkshire, and Pamela, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.R. Greenwood, of Croydon, Surrey.

Mr A.J. McCormack and Miss P.J. Bower
The engagement is announced between Adam, younger son of Mr and Mrs John T. McCormack, of Kirby Muxloe, Leicestershire, and Penny, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Colin C.F. Bower, also of Kirby Muxloe, Leicestershire.

Mr G.O. May and Miss C.A. Buchanan
The engagement is announced between George, younger son of Lieutenant Colonel D.O. May, and the late Mrs V.R. May, of Kyrenia, Cyprus, and Amanda, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.M. Smart, of Wootton Bassett, of Skithos, Greece.

Mr A.C.M. Moncrieff and Miss N.K. Patterson
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs A.M. Moncrieff, of Westbrook, Bosham, Sussex, and Nicola, daughter of Mr and Mrs D.G. Patterson, of Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire.

Mr N.A. Rigg and Miss J.M.A. MacDonnell
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Nigel Rigg, of Forest Row, Sussex, and Hong Kong, and Jane, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Daniel MacDonnell, of Goring-by-Sea, Sussex.

Mr I. Simpson and Mrs K.H. Blood
The engagement is announced between Ian Simpson, of Hayfield, Derbyshire, and Karen Holland Blood, of Chapel-en-le-Frith, Derbyshire.

Air Vice-Marshal M.H. LeBas
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Air Vice-Marshal Michael LeBas was held yesterday at St Clement's Church, Strand, The Rev M.J. Stokes, RAF, officiated.

Air Vice-Marshal J.E. Johnson
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Mr R.S.A. Simpson and Miss C.E. Brett
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs Bernard Simpson, of Harrow on the Hill, Middlesex, and Claire, daughter of Mr and Mrs Tony Brett, of Gosbeck, Suffolk.

Mr D.H.T. Smith and Miss S.E. Meade
The engagement is announced between Dominic, younger son of Mr and Mrs T.C.H. Smith, of Dartford, Kent, and Siobhan, daughter of the late Mr M.J. Meade and of Mrs B.M. Meade, of Welling, Kent.

Mr W.G.H. Thatcher and Miss A.M. Murphy
The engagement is announced between William, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Charles Thatcher, of Over Worton, Middle Barton, Oxfordshire, and Angela, only daughter of Mrs Marion Murphy, of Douai School, Wootton Bassett, and Kirby Lonsdale, Cumbria, and the late Dr Daniel Murphy, of Wigan, Lancashire.

Mr J.M. Yallop and Miss R.J. Moore
The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr and Mrs H.J. Yallop, of Farway, Devon, and Rosemary, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.R.K. Moore, of Wadesmill, Hertfordshire.

Mr F.E. News and Mrs R. Watling
The marriage took place in the Chapel of St Catherine's College, Cambridge, on April 9, 1988, between Sir Foley News and Mrs Beryl Watling.

Dr T.R. Hands and Miss J.E.M. Smart
The marriage took place in the Chapel of Our Lady Undercroft, Canterbury Cathedral, on Saturday, April 9, 1988, between Dr Timothy Hands, son of Mr and Mrs R.K. Hands, of Putney, London, and Miss Jane Smart, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.M. Smart, of Wootton Bassett, Woodstock, Canon Anthony Phillips officiated, assisted by The Rev Peter Geldard and the Rev Leonard Wallace Doolan.

Mr P.M. Dorahy and Miss E.L. Eayrd
The marriage took place on Saturday, April 9, at St Mary's Church, High Heston, Cumbria, of Mr Paul Dorahy, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Patrick Dorahy, of Rose Bay, Sydney, Australia, and Miss Emma Eayrd, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Eayrd, of Low House, Armthwaite, Cumbria. The Rev David Crook officiated assisted by Father Thomas Walsh.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Talitha Rootes, Annabel Rootes, Sarah Corbett and William Emerson. Mr Andrew Dorahy was best man.

Memorial service

Air Vice-Marshal M.H. LeBas
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OBITUARY

KENNETH WILLIAMS

Comedian of many colours

Kenneth Williams, comedian and actor, died yesterday, at the age of 62.

He was natural comedian: a chameleon of speech (in which he was most influenced by Noel Coward) and a brilliant raconteur often given to outrageous facial distortions as though suddenly exposed to a leaking drain. His humour was as witty as camp and jokes of the dubious kind—all bloomers and army medical examinations, which died in the music halls only to be revived on television.

He will, perhaps, be most remembered for his many Carry On films—exercises in wholesome vulgarity, ad hominem whinnying, and the double entendre, all served up in generous dollops. Smut, like beauty, was in the eye of the beholder.

Kenneth Williams was born on London's Caledonian Road on February 22, 1926. Early in his childhood the family moved to a flat over a hairdressing shop in Bloomsbury. He went to LCC schools where, as he recalled, his scholastic achievements were "non-existent".

His father, a strict Methodist and van driver with the London, Midland and Scottish Railway, insisted that he learn a trade, and at the age of 14, he became an apprentice to a cartographer.

During the war, and at the age of 18, he joined the Army and was assigned to make maps for the Royal Engineers. It was while in the Army, feeling "very small and inferior", that he discovered his gift for making people laugh. But people kept telling him to get his knees brown. "Get your knees brown!" they'd say.

He was transferred to Combined Services Entertainment, touring Malaya and Burma, and fetching up at the Victoria Theatre, Singapore. He and



Stanley Baxter were put on as a double act.

By now, he was discovering that, if he got up on the stage, he could make them shut up and look. He believed that his impressions of women were quite good, until the colonel said, "You're an embarrassment", and Williams went into the wings, and wept. He was told that it would be better in Kuala Lumpur, but it never was.

Back in London in civvies after the war, plagued by the fear of poverty which never left him, he thought it best to return to draughtsmanship. But he found the office routine unbearable. He subsisted for a time on a rapidly dwindling Army gratuity and sat alone in his room listening to the gramophone. He wrote to all the provincial repertoires, and at last was given a job in Newquay. The experience there stood him in good stead—Shaw, Ibsen, Wilde.

He was slightly in Peter Pan with Brenda Bruce, appeared in Saint Joan at the Old Vic, and took the West End lead in the revue Share My Lettuce—one performance of which had to be cancelled after he overslept. Orson Welles directed him in Moby Dick.

MR HARRY MCSHANE

Mr Harry McShane, the last link with the stormy period known as the "Revolt on the Clyde", died in Glasgow on April 12. He was 96. Both the duration and intensity of his involvement stand out in the annals of working class politics. He started activity way back in 1908 and continued uninterrupted for eighty years.

During the First World War he was an engineer at Parkhead Forge. There, he was elected shop steward delegate to the Clyde Workers' Committee. In these capacities he participated in all the various industrial disputes. These included the 40-hour strike of 1919, which the government of the day thought might preface the beginning of a British revolution. It swiftly dispatched soldiers and tanks to beleaguere Glasgow. The strike was crushed, some of the leaders were imprisoned, while others lost their jobs.

McShane, himself out of work, joined what was known as the Tramp Trust Unlimited. This was a small group of unemployed people led by Scotland's foremost Marxist, John Maclean, which went round the countryside spreading ideas of militant socialism. Extraordinarily large crowds attended its meetings and impressive numbers of pamphlets were sold.

But, with the formation of the Communist Party, the two men fell out. McShane joined; Maclean did not.

For 30 years McShane remained a loyal member of the Communist Party. In the inter-war years he was the main Scottish spokesman of the Communist Party-led unemployed workers movement. It was responsible for the hunger marches which sought to draw public attention to the plight of those on the dole and the unfair discrimination of the means test.

With the Second World War and full employment, McShane (who had been briefly married in the 1920s) turned to journalism, joining the staff of the Daily Worker.

Remarkably, almost to the end of his life, he remained active. In his eighties he wrote pamphlets, lectured at Saskatchewan University, and took part in "Right to Work" marches.

In his nineties, controversy still clung to him. On one occasion a few clergymen

unsuccessfully moved a resolution at the Scottish General Synod trying to evict him from the Church of Scotland nursing home where he lived. They considered it wrong that somebody who was an avowed atheist should be a resident there.

On another occasion, he supported the staff of the nursing home when they led in an industrial dispute with the management. He even addressed last year's May Day rally in Glasgow.



Poverty March to London, 1934: McShane (left) discussing tactics with Mr John McGovern, MP

Revolt in which he expressed this view.

Whatever people thought of his politics, nobody could doubt McShane's dedication and sincerity. At the age of 61 he left his job on the Daily Worker and returned to the rough, tough life of the shipyard, where he worked as an engineer. He soon gained the reputation as being the scourge of the Communist Party, which he thought was too restrictive.

The banquet was characteristic of McShane's unflagging spirit. The red flag flew over Glasgow City Chambers; there was no loyal toast at the lunch; and instead of the National Anthem the guests sang "I belong to Glasgow".

McShane never did use his Freeman's privilege to graze his sheep on Glasgow Green.

PROFESSOR NORMAN LEWIS

Professor Norman Lewis, the first professor of medieval history at Sheffield University, died on March 28. He was 91.

His work was in three main fields: the history of Parliament in the Middle Ages; the reign of Richard II; and the significance of the indenture system in the raising of a medieval English army. In these spheres his contribution, mainly in articles to learned journals, is authoritative.

Norman Bache Lewis was born on November 8, 1896. During the Great War he served in the Royal Field Artillery before going to Manchester University, graduating in 1921.

In 1924, he moved to Sheffield where he remained until his retirement, in 1962. He became professor of medieval history in 1959.

He seldom missed a meeting of the Sheffield branch of the Historical Association.

The last of many articles appeared in the English Historical Review when he was 88. Until just before his death he had been working on an edition of indentures of retainers in peace and war from 1292 to 1327.

In his own life, Lewis suffered more than one appalling setback. His wife, his son

and his daughter predeceased him. Nonetheless, he retained his characteristic charm and his orderly thoroughness. He was the most gentle of men and an indefatigable walker.

During his last years, in Canterbury, he was cared for by his son-in-law and other relatives.

She was the first woman to be elected to the Italian Senate, and remained active in Italian politics until 1983.

She was arrested in 1930 for anti-fascist activities and was sentenced to 15 years in prison. She served five years in jail and eight in internal exile. She was freed after the Allied invasion.

Although she had been one of the founders of Italy's Stalin and the 1939 Soviet pact with the Nazis. She was reinstated in the party in the 1950s.

She had been a close friend of former socialist President Pertini, who nominated her for the honor of senator for life.

Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

TRAVEL

مكازم الأصيل

The jet set takes off

TRAVEL NEWS

Fare cuts on spring flights to the United States recently announced by British Airways have been matched by most other airlines and specialist tour operators are now coming up with their own offers.

BA's own Poundstretcher subsidiary (0293 518060) is offering the full range of reductions and is also giving \$50 in travellers' cheques to all passengers booking a return ticket to designated US gateways on selected flights during April and May.

Jetways (01 637 5444) is offering free car hire for 14 days in Florida or seven days in California on all its "Apex" flights throughout the summer, and is also giving away Polaroid cameras on all bookings for two or more adults made before June 30.

Pan American (01 409 0688) is matching the BA fares and is also offering two days' free car hire at all its US destinations except New York, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, plus a book of discount vouchers giving savings of up to 50 per cent on hotels, meals and shopping.

Rock and rolling

Gibraltar's famous Rock Hotel, once a favourite haunt of Errol Flynn and Noel Coward, has just been refurbished at a cost of £1.5 million to give it a more luxurious style without losing its traditional colonial atmosphere. The lobby and reception area has been rebuilt in Italian marble and air-conditioning has been installed on the ground floor. Bookings for the Rock are handled in the UK by Cadogan Travel (0703 332661).

Sterling work

Inclusive holidays to many destinations next winter seem likely to come down in price because of the current strength of sterling. Costing rates agreed by leading tour op-

erators show that Tunisia's currency has declined by 13 per cent against the pound since last winter, the US dollar is down by 14 per cent, Portugal's currency by 11 per cent and Cyprus's by about eight per cent. But the Spanish peseta, which affects the largest slice of the winter holiday market, has declined only fractionally.

Holidays on working farms in the UK are becoming increasingly popular and the Farm Holiday Bureau has published its 1988 guide to farmhouse accommodation. It has more than 1,000 entries listing bed and breakfast, self-catering or camping facilities. The guide is available from leading book shops at £2.99.

Island hopper

The busy air routes between Southampton and the Channel Islands will have a new airline from May 20. Air Atlantique, hitherto a freight-only operator, will operate up to nine flights a day from Southampton to Jersey and Guernsey with a flat rate single fare of £29 for adults and £20 for children. Bookings must be made with the airline on 0703 614821 and not through travel agents.

Philip Ray

TRAVEL BOOKS

Spring is here, and with it a flood of books on walking. The National Trust Countryside Walks In series, edited by Steve Parker, on The Thames Valley and the Cotswolds, the Lake District and the Yorkshire Dales, Wessex, and the Home Counties (£2.99 each) are designed with the novice in mind. Each pocket-sized volume contains 14 to 17 walks, largely on National Trust land. A "walk selector" colour-codes each trip by degree of difficulty but maps are rudimentary, so invest in the Ordnance Survey variety.

Jenny Tabakoff

The correct price of The Good Beach Guide by Anne Scott featured last week and to be published on Monday by Ebury Press in association with Heinz Guardians of the Countryside is £5.95.

A trek round Toulouse

The view from the *periphérique* is enough to justify giving Toulouse a wide berth: the view from the bridge is something else. Stand on the Pont Saint-Michel, preferably at midday, and the sun will floodlight a skyline of rose-tinted towers, domes and steeples framed inside an industrial circumference by the blue parallels of the River Garonne and the Canal du Midi, and focused by the latticed arches of the 17th century Pont Neuf. It's worth stopping.

Toulouse has always had the good and bad fortune of being on the way to somewhere else. It owes its very existence to the fact. The Romans forded the Garonne at the crossing of routes from the north to the Pyrenees and from the Mediterranean to the Atlantic; pilgrims dropped in on their way to Santiago de Compostela; and now motorists avoid it, hurrying on to the Hautes-Pyrenees, to Montségur and Montpellier. But a hellish one-way system and terrifyingly tyre-marked narrow pavements interface a city of strange harmony.

In each age Toulouse seems to have turned change and decay to its advantage. Even the narrow pink Roman bricks which kindle its distinctive glow have been softened into turrets, rounded into towers and arches. Lubbock or Amsterdam would have gloried in their right angles, sharpening them into stepped gables and doorways: Toulouse refused.

The city's dissent was at its peak in the early middle ages when the Cathars, religious reformers and merchant clerics, fuelled the city's music, poetry and commerce by countering the feudal wealth of the archbishops with a

Hilary Finch visits the fine French city of Toulouse whose turbulent history is told in its seven centuries of architecture

progressive *embourgeoisement*.

Their age saw the building of Saint-Sernin, the largest Romanesque basilica in Western Europe. Approach it from the central marketplace down the narrow Rue du Tur: that's how Saint Saturnin, who evangelized the town in the third century, ended up at his burial place, dragged by the bull which was the instrument of his martyrdom. Each nave, a tunnel of pale arches and echoing perspectives of light and tone, holds within it the space of two long centuries of architectural evolution. Everything grows from the circle and back to it again.

But the circle was broken. The Albigeois Crusade steam-rolled the Cathars and the independent county of Toulouse. The Dominicans held sway: the Order of Preachers set their mark on the city in the Convent of the Jacobins, 10 minutes' leisurely walk down the Rue Valade and the Rue Lakanal. The eyes, drawn far into the long distances of Saint-Sernin, are turned directly upwards by the Jacobin's seven massive pillars which grow along the centre of the single nave like slender trunks of an efflorescent forest of vaulting.

The mid 14th-century housed the Augustines, too: their

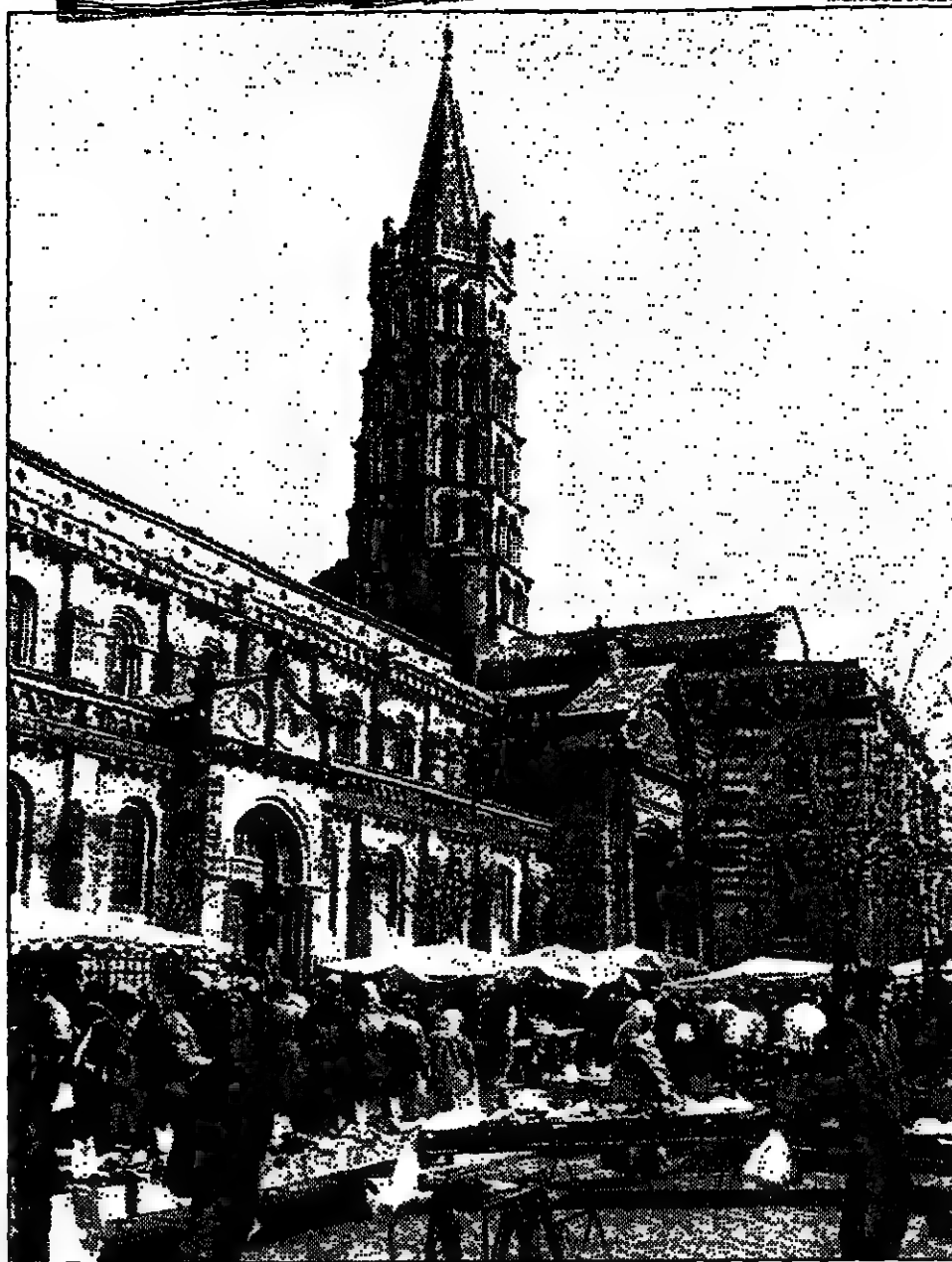
convent is now a living museum, its upper galleries heavy with treasure from ransacked cloisters and paintings confiscated from the aristocracy. Gargoyles, too, were salvaged: they stand in the cloister tall and erect, in long silent lines, heads thrown back, snarling and baying to the moon.

The cloister itself is ringed by Toulouse's Oxford Street and Regent Street: the Rue de Metz and the Rue d'Alsace-Lorraine. There is Monoprix and Fnac; there are restaurants dedicated to the duck (liver, potted, preserved), to Armagnac (in the pastry-laced *Pastis Gascon*), and to the crystallized violet: there is a pet-shop with the largest, most woebegone toucan in Europe.

Toulouse has always been a merchant town. It came into its own in the 16th century thanks to a tiny tinctorial plant which colonized the city, its leaves were boiled and ground, and the pastel it yielded gave the city a renaissance of its own, and built the palaces and hotels at its heart.

It is easy to miss them. The great archways are the clue to what lies behind an often sombre, unprepossessing facade: walk through any one of them in the Rue des Arts, the Rue Mage, the Rue de la Dalbade, and you will find yourself in a noble, self-confident courtyard of towers, clocks, and medieval memorabilia. The Hotel de Bernuy, d'Assézat and de Pierre are the ones to seek out.

In 1560 the India route was discovered, and with it the import of indigo. The age of pastel was over. Toulouse turned back to brick, laced it with wrought-iron balconies and intricately carved lintels, silver-grey like the avenues of French planes which grow tall and moss-free along every boulevard. There is one nasty



Saint-Sernin, largest Romanesque basilica in Western Europe, seen from the market place

surprise. Sooner or later, whether you've been shopping in the Rue Metz, ogling antiques in the Rue Tolosane, or mushroom hunting, you'll come upon the cathedral of Saint-Etienne. It is a disconcerting moment. For there in front of you, and it matters not which front you choose, is a chaotic time-capsule of Toulouse's history: seven centuries of architecture piled one on top of the other, before any one had the chance to grow

up. A massive rectangular bell-tower perches askew a dungeon-like mass of brick: a gothic rose window grows like a parasite out of the side of a Romanesque arch. Toulouse had had its day.

TRAVEL NOTES

Dan-Air (0345 100200) flies to Toulouse from £110 (Apex) to £288 return. Regular train and bus services run throughout the area, if you want to avoid

OUT AND ABOUT

State of the timber art

Chesham is a suburb of surprises, from an Italian restaurant of legendary quality (Al San Vincenzo, near the railway station) to a superb set of Elizabethan monuments locked away in a chapel of the parish church.

In the village, some remarkably fine old houses have managed to withstand the speculative building explosion of the Twenties and Thirties – and it is particularly apt that in this sea of mock-Tudor one of these survivors should be a genuine, and uniquely interesting, Tudor house.



Surviving the centuries: Whitehall, a genuine Tudor house, after restoration inside and out

How Whitehall was built, and its evolution over the centuries, is made wonderfully clear inside. Displays and captions, and a carefully chosen sequence of the structure at key points, make this a delightfully easy building to "read". For this we must thank the London borough of Sutton, which very commendably bought the place when it was showing signs of falling apart, had it sensitively restored, and in 1978 threw it open to the public.

The main reason why the building was threatening to fall down was not old age but the result of a mid-16th-century left conversion. Climb the narrow, creaking stairs to the attic and you can see how it happened. More than four centuries ago, some bright spark of a builder cast his professional eye over certain essential bracing timbers and, with a sharp intake of breath, gave his verdict: "They'll have to go for a start, governor". They did, and the roof duly began to settle and spread and force the outer walls apart.



once housed a royal palace of extraordinary splendour: Henry VIII's Nonsuch. Nothing now remains above ground of this astonishing building, but a display at Whitehall outlines its story and shows a few relics.

The coming of Nonsuch undoubtedly raised the tone of the neighbourhood, leading the owners of Whitehall to their ill-advised left conversion – to say nothing of the two-storey porch. In the following century the plague led many Londoners to send their sons out to such rural spots as Chesham for their education, and the recently-founded Chesham School flourished.

Whitehall was certainly the home of the first headmaster, and may well have housed the school itself – which remains a famous name, though since 1934 it has been based in Berkshire. On the day I visited, the present headmaster of the present Chesham School was taking tea at Whitehall, no doubt thinking of little acorns and mighty oaks.

Nigel Andrew

Whitehall: Malden Road, Chesham (01-643 1236) is open April-September, Tues-Fri and Sun 2-5.30pm; Sat 10am-5.30pm. October-March, Wed, Thurs and Sun 2-5.30pm; Sat 10am-5.30pm. Also Bank Holiday Morn 2-5.30pm.

From civil war to classic comedy

A Weekend of Living History: The English Civil War Society are in residence at Avoncroft, camping in the Merchant's House and re-enacting military and domestic life as it was during the Civil War. Also wagon rides with the shire horse throughout the weekend and on Sunday 11am-12.30pm, displays of Morris and May dancing. Teasrooms and picnic sites.

Avoncroft Museum of Buildings, Stoke Heath, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire (0527 31363). Today, tomorrow 11am-4.30pm. Adult £1.90, child 95p. Family ticket 2+2 £4.95.

Phillips Antiques Valuation Day: Take along your family heirlooms for the experts to identify, date and value. The mansion, medieval hall, farm, park and gardens are also open: full restaurant facilities. Tatton Park, Knutsford, Cheshire (0565 54622).

OUTINGS

Admission to Thomas: adult £1.25, children aged 5-15, 55p. Small extra charges for other attractions. Valuation: £1 first item, 50p each subsequent item.

Champion All International Gymnastics Tournament: The biggest international event of its kind since the European championships of 1978. Men and women champions from the National Olympic Squads of the USSR, Hungary, Canada and the USA, East Germany, Romania, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, China, France, West Germany and Great Britain compete for medals in voluntary exercises. Birmingham National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham. Today, 2pm. Box office 021-780 4133. Tickets bookable £3.50-£8.

A Cavalcade of Coward: Elizabeth Welch and Tony performed by Barbara Leigh and Richard Pearce. The Orangery, Kemwood, Hampstead Lane, London N6. Tomorrow 7.30pm. Tickets bookable on 01-379 5533 or at the door. Adult £2.50-£5, child £1.20-£2.50.

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The temperature in Middlesex today is 82° F

Ocho Rios is in Middlesex, Jamaica. And right now it's warmer than Middlesex, England. For the Jamaica Information Pack, write to: Jamaica Tourist Board, 63 St. James's St. London SW1A 1LY. (01-499 1707).

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DRINK

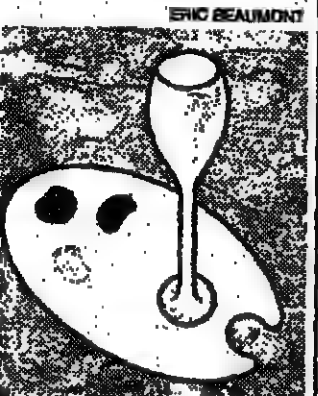
Art for all tastes

Never judge a bottle by its label. It sounds a sensible adage, but from watching wine shoppers at the supermarket shelf and wine merchant's bin, it is clear that bottles with appealing labels often triumph over the others.

Admittedly, wine label design has much improved since the days when all that was required was the name of the wine, plus those of its shipper and producer, and who cared what the result looked like? Today it seems new wines and their labels spend as much time in the hands of designers and the marketing department as they do with the wine.

Baron Philippe de Rothschild, of Mouton Rothschild, started the craze for artistic labels more than half a century ago with his handsome 1924 art deco label drawn by Carlu. Since then many famous artists, including Chagall, Picasso, Dali and Henry Moore, have all drawn Mouton labels.

The most spectacular in recent years has been that of the magnificent but expensive 1982 vintage (Gare du Vin, 23 Brompton Road, London SW7, £70), whose vibrant colours and stylish representation of red sun, purple grapes and white Mouton ram was surprisingly drawn by film maker John Huston.



Thankfully, attractive wines with attractive labels can be found at cheaper prices. The supermarkets have been curiously slow to jump on this bandwagon. Sainsbury's own designer label offerings feature old fashioned two vineyard scenes while Asda generally goes in for wishy-washy pastels.

Tesco appears to be winning the own-label battle, especially with their new trio of Australian wines bought from Hardy's, a quality-minded and still family-owned firm. This trio's eye-catching labels depict evocative outdoor scenes that should cheer up any lunch or supper table.

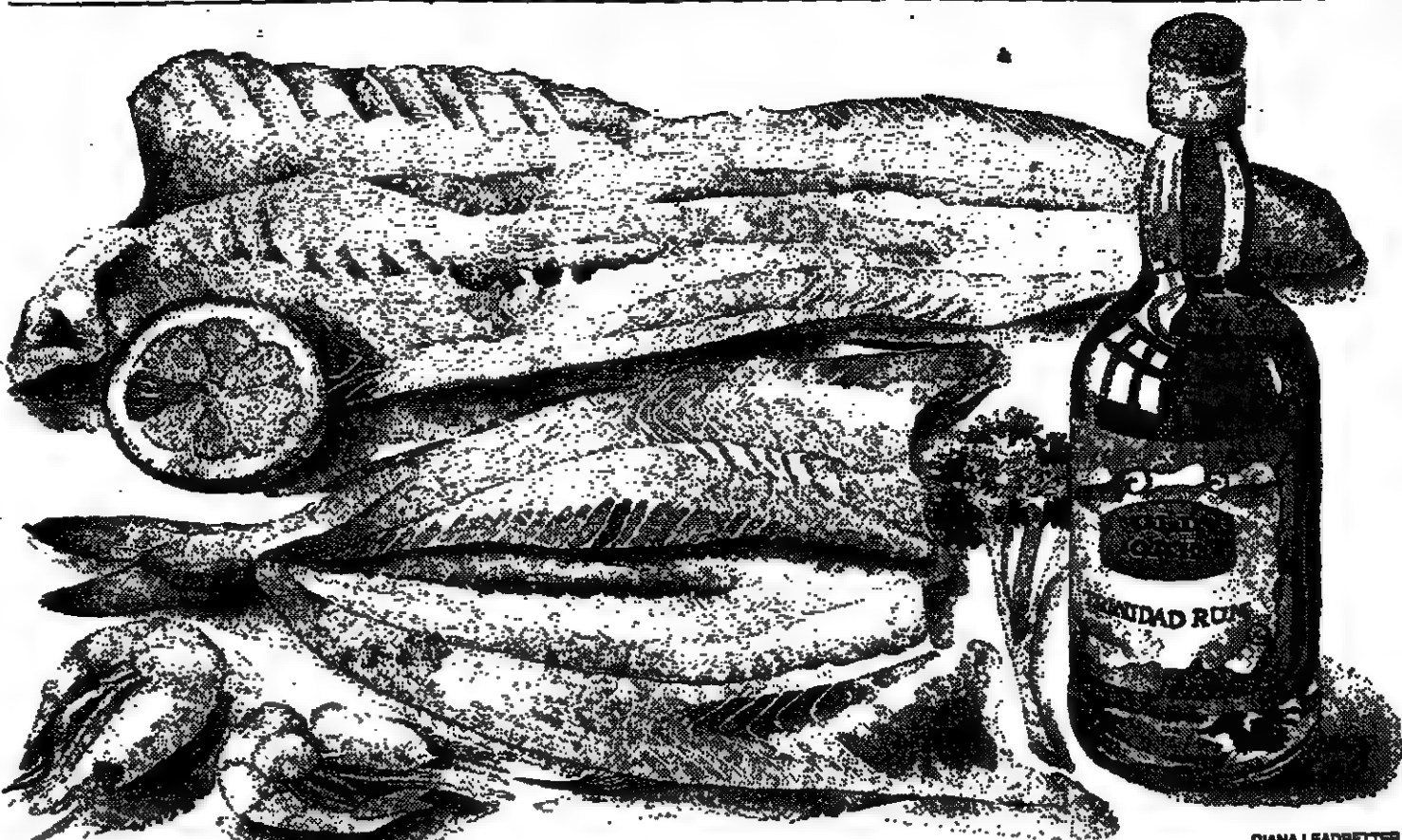
Tesco's dry Riesling Riesling from Padthaway in south Australia, close to the first class Coonawarra district, the trio's home, is perhaps the best value for money. I enjoyed its pleasant, light, flowery-citric scent plus its clean, fresh, citric palate. Not a great wine but, priced at just £2.99 a bottle, a very useful purchase all the same.

Perhaps the most stylish and drinkable series of fine-label wines I have come across is the hunting and fishing range, featuring all manner of game and fish, from Les Maitres Vignerons de la Presqu'île de St Tropez. This well run co-operative produces a fresh, leafy '86 fishing label white and a gutsy and herbaceous '85 hunting label red, both available in a wooden box of six bottles priced at £29.85 or three bottles priced at £18.90 from Berkman Wine Cellars, 12 Brewery Road, London N7.

Jane MacQuitty

Lifeline to save our soles

Frances Bissell with some recipes to keep Britain's wet fish shops afloat



2 cloves garlic, peeled and crushed
¼ pint/140 ml stock or wine (red or white will do)

Fry the quails all over in a non-stick frying pan, and put them to one side. Remove the central tough stem from the spring greens and blanch them for a minute or two to make them pliable. Rinse under cold water and dry on paper towels. Season the butter and mix in the herbs and garlic. Divide into four, and put a "nut" of seasoned butter inside each quail. Wrap each one in two or three leaves and place them in a small casserole. Pour on the stock or wine, bring to the boil, cover and simmer gently or put in a medium hot oven for 25 minutes or so. Drain the cooking juices into a small saucepan and boil to reduce to a few spoonfuls of gravy. Serve with the quails.

Here is a simple, inexpensive and light note on which to end a meal, if you are getting tired of rhubarb, oranges and pears which seem to be the only seasonal fruit around at the moment, apart from tropical imports.

Ricotta with apricot sauce (serves 4)
6oz/170g untreated dried apricots
¼lb/340g fresh ricotta cheese
1oz/30g unsalted pistachio (optional)

Put the apricots in a small saucepan, and cover with boiling water. Leave them to stand for 20 to 30 minutes. Bring them to the boil and simmer gently, covered, until tender and plump. This can take them five to 30 minutes, depending on how dehydrated the apricots were to begin with. Make sure that they are kept covered with water. This will form part of the sauce.

Cool the apricots and rub them through a sieve. Chill until required. Slice the ricotta into four neat shapes and place on pudding plates. Blanch and peel the pistachios, and roughly crush them with a rolling pin. Pour some of the sauce on to the ricotta, without completely covering it, and scatter the pistachios on the sauce.

The contrast between the sharp fruity sauce and the bland, smooth cheese is pleasing and delicious. And pistachios definitely go with apricots, which makes it worthwhile hunting out a source of unsalted ones. You will probably find them in a wholesaler shop which is also a good place to buy the apricots, as you are more likely to find untreated ones there. Prunes could replace the apricots if you prefer.

We have been doing the sort of entertaining that means my fishmonger has been seeing rather a lot of me recently. Friends came from Springfield, Missouri a couple of Saturdays ago where wet fish shops have all but disappeared. As a special treat, I poached a new season's salmon trout and served it warm with home-made mayonnaise.

Then I cooked dinner for a friend who does not eat meat but is not entirely vegetarian because she eats fish. This gave me an excuse to have a good browse around the fish shop. Sole, halibut and monkfish were all very expensive so I looked at the cheaper end of the range. The sole looked good, firm and pearly fresh. At £1.40 a pound, it was one of the cheaper fish.

Earlier in the week I had made a very tasty fish and potato pie using sole and a few prawns for extra flavour, so I decided on something different — a piece of smoked haddock. Finnan haddock has long been a favourite, but for the last couple of years our fishmonger has been selling fillets of undyed smoked haddock. And very good they are too, not a lurid crocus yellow but the pale colour you might expect of a fish fillet that has been lightly smoked.

I know that the bright yellow fish is labelled "no artificial colouring", and I suppose that is true, according to a broad interpretation. But it mystifies me that it is considered natural to dye fish with a substance produced from a tropical South American tree (annatto). When the Guild of Food Writers tackled manufacturers and supermarkets about this they were assured that that was what the consumer wanted. Until we as consumers tell the manufacturers otherwise, no doubt that's what they will go on believing.

Be assured too that the undyed smoked haddock is absolutely delicious. So delicious, in fact, that I decided not to cook it but serve it raw after marinating it for a few hours. It is also very good steamed or poached. Over the next few weeks, I shall be doing my bit to help keep wet fishshops in business, looking at some old favourites like skate and herring but suggesting one or two new ideas for cooking them. It would be very sad indeed if we finished up like Missouri.

This recipe for marinated smoked haddock is only worth doing with the undyed fish. It sounds improbable, but the aged rum, a very dry, delicate spirit, is an important ingredient. The rum

flavour is, in the end, not distinguishable, but it blends harmoniously with the rest of the marinade. If you substituted cognac or malt whisky, you would get something of the same effect. Alternatively, leave the spirits out altogether. Hazelnut oil can be found in good delicatessens, grocers and certain branches of Sainsbury's and Marks and Spencer.

Marinated smoked haddock (serves 4 to 6 as a starter)
1 lb/455 g fillet of undyed smoked haddock
6 tablespoons hazelnut oil
freshly ground black pepper
1 onion, peeled and sliced
3 tablespoons aged rum (or no spirits at all)
½ lemon

Slice the fish as if you were slicing smoked salmon. Lay the slices in a shallow dish, in a single layer. Sprinkle with the oil and pepper and cover with slices of onion. Cover and let the dish stand in a cool place for 1 to 2 hours. Sprinkle on the rum and leave it for another hour. Arrange the slices on

large dinner plates, suitably decorated, perhaps with lamb's lettuce, diced, peeled tomatoes or strips of cucumber. Spoon on any marinade that has not been absorbed, and squeeze a few drops of lemon juice over each plate of fish, but do not overdo the lemon.

Coley pie (serves 4)
½lb/230g new potatoes
1½lb/570g skinned coley fillet
1 tablespoon orange juice
2 teaspoons paprika
½ teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
½lb/230g shortcrust pastry
1 tablespoon finely chopped parsley
3 to 4oz/85g to 110g peeled prawns
3 tablespoons milk, single cream or fish stock
1oz/30g unsalted butter (optional)

Scrub and par boil the new potatoes. Cut the fish into 1½ins/4cm chunks and sprinkle with orange juice. Put the paprika, salt and pepper in a bag, and shake the fish in it to make sure that the

pieces get well seasoned. Roll out enough pastry to line a pie dish. I use an old rectangular earthenware dish that is 9ins x 7ins x 1½ins/23 x 18 x 4 cm, but a round one of roughly the same volume would do just as well.

Slice the potatoes and put them in the bottom of the lined pie dish. Put the pieces of fish on top, sprinkle with parsley, and tuck the prawns well down between the pieces of fish. Moisten with whatever liquid you choose, and dot with butter if you like. Roll out the rest of the pastry, cover the pie, pinch the edges together to seal the pie and trim off the surplus pastry. Make a couple of small slits in the top to let steam escape, and roll out the pastry trimmings for decorations.

Brush the pie with milk or beaten egg to glaze, if you like, and bake in a preheated oven, gas mark 5, 190°C/375°F for 25 minutes. Serve hot or warm.

Now that it is farmed in Britain, quail is no longer the rarity it once was and is available all year round. Many butchers stock them or will get them to order, and you can

often find quail in packs of four in Chinese supermarkets. For their size, they are surprisingly meaty, and one per person is quite sufficient.

You can roast or grill them, but I think they are better pot-roasted or casserole which gives them plenty of tasty gravy. On average you can expect to pay 80p to £1 each. It is a good idea to wrap them to keep them moist or basted, but I cannot abide the practice of covering the breast of poultry or game birds with bacon. Use a thin layer of pork fat, if you like, although a butter wrapper is just as good. Or envelope the quails in leaves, lettuce, spinach or cabbage. The following recipe demonstrates how much nicer quails are when they taste of themselves rather than bacon.

Quails in spring greens (serves 4)
4 oven ready trussed quails
8 to 12 leaves of spring greens
pinch of salt
½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
1oz/30g softened unsalted butter
2 teaspoons chopped fresh herbs

EATING OUT

Burberries and sashimi

Jonathan Meades enjoys a meal at one of London's least expensive Japanese restaurants where the click-clack of mah-jong has given way to the slurp of miso soup

Ninjin, at the northern end of the capital's Great Portland Street, and thus in truly central London by a few yards, is a former club set in a basement. It was, until a couple of years ago, a mah-jong club frequented exclusively by Japanese businessmen, and men only.

It is beneath a rather good Japanese food store which sells, among much else, a daunting range of fish cakes produced by the restaurant kitchen. It has not changed its sign, which still says Club, and it had not much changed its clientele.

As I walked down the stairs, a party of 20 or so Japanese men walked up, each member wearing a variant of the traditional spring uniform, a

uniform which must bring gladness to the heart of Britain's rainwear manufacturers. There were Queirays and Burberries and Aquascutum and Paul Smiths for the younger ones, and every other chair in the restaurant had such a garment draped over it.

The remaining chairs were nearly all filled by Japanese men who had mastered the difficult trick of simultaneously eating, smoking, reading a paper and talking. These pursuits were more rewarding than gazing at the surrounds, which were drearily utilitarian — honeycomb plastic ceiling, dark wood tables, mobile screens. The only decorative ornament was a series of half-hearted floral murals; the only aural ornament a series of

Japanese pop songs emitted by a distant speaker.

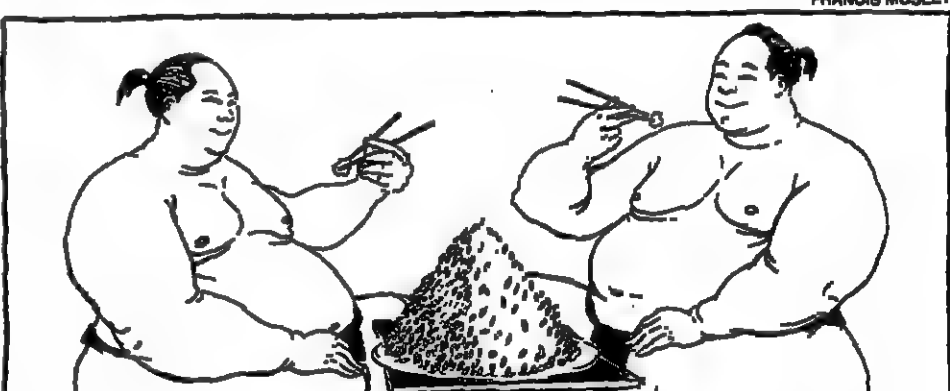
This is one of London's least expensive Japanese places, and among the most interesting. The repertoire of dishes makes some worthwhile diversions from the norm. There is, for instance, the meat and potato stew otherwise encountered only at Ikkuyu in Tottenham Court Road.

There is a further dish that is both worthwhile and more or less unknown in Japanese places, very light dumplings stuffed with meat and onion. Such a dumpling is, of course, one of the archetypal dishes of the world and is found in one version or another from Poland to Peking. This version is among the finest.

The sashimi here is the cheapest I can recall, £5.50. Things such as miso soup, plain grilled salmon and yet another unusual dish, minced chicken grilled on a skewer, are all to be recommended.

The only false note was a horribly fat, breadcrumbed pork chop which was partially saved by being served with a salad that had something approaching a proper dressing. This salad included cold mashed potato spiked with onion and cucumber — a confection that was rather nicer than it must sound. With tea to drink, two will pay £30.

Ninjin: 244 Great Portland Street, London W1 (01-388 4657) noon-2.30pm and 6-10.30pm Mon to Fri; noon-2.30pm Sat.



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into action. As should the thought of those luscious Shiraz and Cabernet grapes, melding so delightfully in the bottle.

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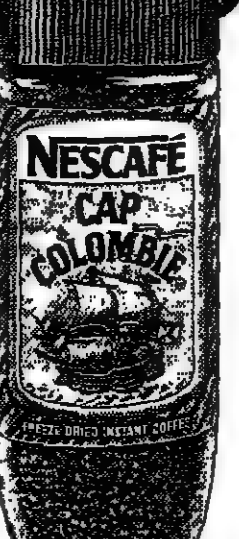


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Enjoy the taste of Jersey

THE ARTS

Docklands plot still stirs as it thickens

A London disc jockey this week described the ambience of a local radio station which is created in *Thin Air* (BBC1) as so real that it took the enamel off your teeth.

Increasingly admirable in its second episode, this new thriller certainly does not stint on the

TELEVISION

chain-smoking, the plastic cups of plastic coffee, the thick kid reporters whose horizons are relentlessly lowered by even more stupid editors, and the all-pervading sound of the station with its gassy propensity for proving Noel Coward correct about cheap innuendo.

In addition, this series provides the only well-written part I can recall in popular television for a pretty young woman, of which the gifted and fortunate actress Kate Hardie is making the absolute best.

It is difficult to convey the precise blend of affection and contempt inspired by the lover who inquires: "Are you all right?" when you have been crying your eyes out all night, but Miss Hardie's transparent features triumph over this challenge.

I could quibble with the more sensational dimensions of the plot, in which corrupt Docklands developers, dope dealers and media entrepreneurs are somehow enmeshed, but since this agenda is conveyed with fast cutting, close close-ups and eloquent detail it seems more credible than it should.

Dispatches (Channel 4) provided a timely insight into the mentality of a terrorist. In Germany the surviving leaders of the Red Army Faction are involved in a move towards public dialogue. The hope is that by such acknowledgement Germans will be able to come to terms not only with the terrorist movement, in which four and a half million people were once suspected of complicity, but also with the cycle of repression and extremism which recurs in their history.

The programme argued that the combination of repressive government, personal cowardice and extremist reaction had virtually created the terrorist movement. Among the reformed activists, Astrid Proll paid tribute to the "incredible liberalism" which she had encountered in Britain and which, she said, had helped to modify her attitudes.

Celia Brayfield

Frederic Raphael, whose latest novel is out on Monday, is an Englishman bred but not born, Katherine Stephen writes

Still the outsider

Behind a tall clipped hedge and high white gates that announce a degree of apprehension toward the outside world there lies the English country house of Frederic Raphael. It is in a village surrounded by Essex countryside. Not that "Freddie", as he is known, and his wife Sylvia-Betty (she introduces herself by her nickname, "Beetle"), are often there. Seventeen years ago they flew away to France, settling in idyllic circumstances in the Dordogne: "I work best there," Raphael says.

England, evidently, could not hold him. Tall, extra-animated, with a conversational technique that is a cross between the schoolboy determined to dazzle his examiner and a fencer aiming for his opponent's heart, Raphael has always had an uneasy relationship with England — an uneasiness from which he says he derives most of his strength as a writer.

He is dressed casually and sits chatting — or rather, making small speeches. "I am both novelist and screenwriter," he says. But he knows that when the credits roll on his life — possible future literary triumphs excepted — it will be his scripts for which he is remembered. "Middle literary" was the late Marghanita Laski's succinct dismissal of his novels and though he has written many (*The Trouble With England*, *Like Men Betrayed*, *Heaven and Earth*), his strength seems to be not so much in the manipulation of words, but in plot, images, dialogue: words that can come to life on screen.

It was Raphael who plotted the Sixties morality play of the simultaneous rise and fall of Julie Christie in her mini-skirt as she travelled the large social distance from being the girlfriend of a mere journalist to the neglected wife of an Italian aristocrat in *Darling*. He was 35 when that screen-

play won him an Oscar. A little later he was chosen to write the adaptation of *Far From the Madding Crowd*, which much of the world outside Britain regards as the most vividly English film since the war.

But most particularly, it is the series of plays Raphael created for television in the mid-Seventies, *The Glittering Prizes*, which starred Tom Conti and helped define what Raphael sees as modern England's troubled relationship with itself, that may be seen as his most emphatic statement.

On Monday Raphael, 57, publishes a new novel called *After the War* (Collins, £11.95). It will be followed next year by a 10-part series for Granada Television of the same name. This time, he says, Raphael the novelist and Raphael the screenwriter are inextricably mingled.

"Normally, there is a certain rule in the aesthetics of fiction which is that it's proper to write a novel and then write a film or a play but that it's improper to do it the other way," he says. "I don't want to give the impression that I've done the proper thing. What I've actually done is to do more or less both things at the same time, overlapping — and a very exhausting and long business it's been too." It took him three years, after accepting an offer from Granada Television, to fashion this broad-canvas, many-characterised scheme designed to encapsulate the generation that came of age in Britain at the end of the Second World War.

Raphael was 13 when the war ended. "We didn't know anything except by clichés of various kinds. So one spent the whole of one's adolescence trying to get out of the light of received ideas."



An American in London: Frederic Raphael admits he has something of "a love-hate relationship with England"

His novel tells the story of a talented, public school educated, Jewish young man named Michael Jordan, who becomes a successful playwright in London, and the parallel adventures of his sister, Rachel. Raphael has long wanted to eclipse the reputation he made for himself with *The Glittering Prizes*. How will *After the War* be compared? "It came later and it's a bit longer. I don't have any view of its merits. After Cicero spent a great deal of time explaining to the Senate how he had saved the Roman public, he observed that it were better that another had said it."

This commentator, criticizer and definer of modern Englishness, is not completely English at all — except by manner, accent, education, and ultimate allegiance. He was born in Chicago and moved to New York when he was three. His mother is American; he has retained his American citizenship, making him, as he says, ineligible for many British literary prizes.

To find the American in him, he says, one does not have to look very far. "I was an American in those crucial years before the age of seven, then he underwent the process of becoming English when his British father brought the family back before the war. But what was innate for his schoolfriends had to be learned. He became the outsider looking into the heart of the Establishment, while becoming like it in the process. But he saw problems with the sort of Englishness he observed at Charterhouse and Cambridge. This gave him a subject and, as he cheerfully acknowledges, something to complain about."

"I didn't go along with the whole public school ethos — and yet I did. I'm capable of being quite tart-tongued and quite

easily hurt — it's not a very good combination in life or in public schools. The contempt for Jews, blacks, people who were left-handed — I mean there was no part of the world toward which the English, at that time, could not arrange to feel disdain. Racism in England goes right down to the bottom."

"I do have a love/hate relationship with England and I don't know any writer who would bother to be a writer who wouldn't have a love/hate relationship with almost anything he wrote about."

Raphael is defensive, in that very English way, about the symbols of success that writing about this subject has brought him. Journalists so often misinterpret these things, he protests. "Would we be able to look each other in the eye when next we met, he wonders, or would there be another betrayal?"

Despair of living too long

The Makropoulos Case
Coliseum

Nothing but a warm welcome back is in order for David Pountney's production, revived by Sally Day, of Janáček's bizarre but human essay on the necessity of death. As far as the leading role is concerned, there have been no changes since the production first arrived on the ENO stage, courtesy of Scottish Opera and the WNO, in 1982.

Josephine Barstow still commands as Emilia Marty, reduced to emotional emptiness and hardened cynicism by her 300 years'

OPERA

worth of life experience. Even if in the face of Janáček's opulent orchestration it is sometimes difficult to catch everything she sings, the part is ideal for her style of acting. Perhaps she occasionally lacks subtlety, but there are few singers as capable of exploring such despair while maintaining such a hard facade.

Bonaventura Botone, the Janek in the 1984 revival, returns with his first Albert Gregor, singing with all the ardency and the power such an absurdly besotted character demands. His rival in legal battle, Baron Prus, is equally

sympathetically taken by Jacek Sirauch, while two newcomers to the production, Paul Harry as the wimpish, self-destructive Janek, and Terry Jenkins as the (literally?) haunting figure of the insane Count Hauk-Sendorf, make an important impact.

Aurally and visually the production remains a treat. The conductor, Lionel Friend, senses the evolution of the music to its white hot climax with an uncanny feeling for its shape, and the ENO orchestra play only marginally less than brilliantly, but with a notably ripe string and woodwind sound. Maria Bjornson's stage designs, with piled up desks, statues and hat boxes, are stunning.

Stephen Pettitt

Walking on the crust of hell

THEATRE

Don Juan
Royal Exchange,
Manchester

The infernal doom awaiting Molière's libertine Don Juan over him throughout Ian McDonald's visually striking production in the form of five black columns suspended above the stage, their bases tapering like sticks of sealing wax in the hellish heat. The surface of the island stage is broken up into patches suggesting lead melting in a crucible, and the stage itself is ringed with metallic writhing figures like a Rodin vision of the damned.

If this setting (by Julian McGowan) is not merely ornamental, it is there to suggest that Don Juan conducts his escapades on the very crust of hell. And fair enough, since he is on stage almost throughout the play and the subject of discussion when he is off. But the setting implies that everyone else walks the same perilous course, even if unaware of it, and such emphasis in a secular age makes the underlying theme of divine punishment irrelevant to experience.

Unless, in some way, hell lies within ourselves. As if following this line, Jonathan Kent's Juan incarnates the vision of joyless experience. With a sneer permanently fixed in his parchment face, every turn of the head and hands and legs is measured and artificial. A master of the contemptuous snarl, Kent is once or twice so elegantly overcome by *amni* that his voice expires on a whisper.

This is a continuously fascinating performance and whenever he and his servant are in charge of the play the production succeeds. Bernard Bresslaw's sonorous tones capture the mutable compound of folly and good sense in Sganarelle, and it is a real pleasure hearing him get his tongue round "circumlocution". He is the reluctant semi-hero eager to retreat to the sidelines, safe from outraged relatives of abandoned women, where statues never nod their heads.

The movements of the bronze statue (Paul Rattee) are impressively ominous and the short scene with the Pauper (Marcus Hutton) is also well handled. It is the more welcome to modern taste in that it is the only occasion in the play when an action is begun and completed within a scene: Don Juan will give the beggar a coin if he blasphemes and the man refuses.

Unfortunately, not all the performances even approach the central partnership for quality. Most seriously, Katherine O'Toole's unimpressive Elvira, neither moved nor moving, leaves an aching void at a crucial point of the drama.

Jeremy Kingston



No sense of home: Jemma Redgrave and Simon Schatzberger

A strange dream from Strindberg

Easter
Haymarket,
Leicester

Featuring two siblings with a Christ-identification, and boasting his family history into another Resurrection, Strindberg's *Easter* has no right to be a good play. But as David Leveaux proves in this beautifully cast production, it can be utterly spell-binding.

Strindberg quarried the piece out of his childhood memories of his father's bankruptcy, and presents a household in constant fear of creditors. Ellis (a self-portrait) is a violently self-pitying teacher, with hopeless longings to escape to the Northern lakes with his fiancée Kristina for a ritual cleansing of the family guilt. His sister Eleonora, meanwhile, returns from a mental home; and, to complete the party, the main victim of parental embezzlement — Lindkvist — has settled in the town.

As Strindberg handles it, this dismal picture takes on the quality of a dream, at once fateful and paradoxical. Two aspects of this transformation are worth pointing out.

First, by setting the action in a sleepy town where nothing ever happens, he intensifies the impact of tiny events. So the shadow of Lindkvist on the curtains appears that of a huge bogeyman; and when Eleonora removes a single daffodil from a florist's you can

share the family's fear that the police are on her trail. Secondly, coming after Strindberg's "inferno" period, the play is obsessively concerned with the need for kindness in a world where it is so easy to inflict irreparable damage.

David Leveaux presents it on a raked black ramp (by Philippe Brandi) leading to the sight of a birch tree through the huge up-stage windows. All the lighting is directional — picking out such isolated properties as the solitary daffodil, and the father's hat and coat — so as to establish a most realistic space where past and aspects of the present converge. There is no sense of a surrounding house; characters come and go from nowhere.

The success of any production depends above all on Eleonora, a Scandinavian relative of Dostoevsky's Idiot, who would be sunk by the smallest trace of whimsicality. Jemma Redgrave's performance is one that suggests brain-to-brain contact with her creator; a candid, impetuous, and gentle figure, fully in this world while following the dictates of another.

Gerald Murphy's Ellis remarkably broadens his range from angry defiance to relaxation and simple contentment. There are other fine performances from Jennie Stoller and Bruce Purchase, as an ogre whose roar is worse than his club.

Irving Wardle

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Lend us a
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Forced to increase its seat prices by 15 per cent, thanks to its below inflation award from the Arts Council, the English National Opera could now lose its £1.25 million grant from Westminster City Council.

This grant is jeopardized by the Local Government Finance Bill under which central government takes over the collection of the business rate, which in Westminster amounts to five times the revenue from private homes. In deciding how much to return to Westminster, the Government will be looking at the services needed by the borough's tiny resident population, rather than its commitments to the arts.

David Eliott, ENO finance director, tells me that to sustain its grants to the Coliseum and the London Festival Ballet, Westminster would need to add an unthinkable £20 to the community charge. He said: "Westminster accounts for eight per cent of our income. Losing it would be the equivalent of cancelling five Tannhausers."

Flying finale

Philip Hedley, director of the Theatre Royal London's east end, last week received the sort of glittering birthday tribute you wait until you are 80 for in Hollywood. Ian McKellen, Jean Boht, Jill Gascoine and half the cast of *EastEnders* and *Allo Allo* were among 500 who joined his 50th birthday cabaret and witnessed his rendition of *That Magnificent Man on the Flying Trapeze*.

Jazzed up

Joshua Reynolds will be spinning in his grave. The Royal Academy has persuaded a posse of distinguished jazz musicians, including Bob Wilber and Marian Montgomery, to perform at a Summer Exhibition private view and buffet on May 16. Sir Josh would, however, approve of the cause: the £75 and £45 tickets are in aid of the Royal Academy Schools.

Andrew Billen

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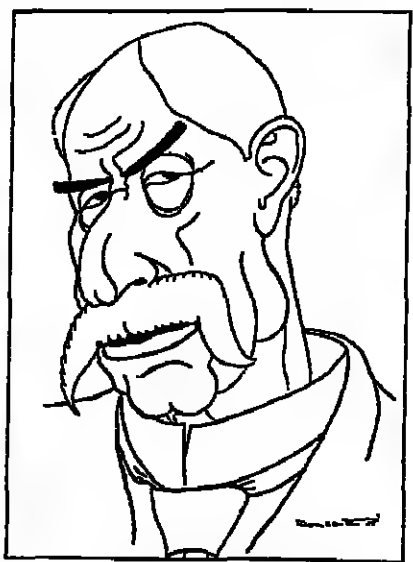
THE WEEK AHEAD



CONCERTS
LEN AND PHIL: Leonard Slatkin, the accomplished American conductor, twice appears with the Philharmonia Orchestra at the Festival Hall this week. Slatkin, noted for his exceptional grasp of structure and refinement of orchestral balance, conducts Shostakovich's Symphony No 5 and Samuel Barber's Cello Concerto tomorrow, with Berlioz's Roman Carnival Overture and Brahms's Symphony No 1 on Thursday. Festival Hall (01-928 3191, 01-928 8800 cc), tomorrow and Thursday, 7.30pm.



FILMS
WILD MAN: Klaus Kinski puts his wild mop of hair and mad eyes to predictable use in *Cobra Verde* (15), Werner Herzog's latest exercise in high adventure, jungle fever and visionary dreams. Kinski, previously featured to striking effect in Herzog's *Fitzcarraldo* and *Aguirre, Wrath of God*, plays a disgruntled South American rancher who takes his revenge on the world through banditry. He ends up in Dahomey, West Africa, reviving the slave trade. Renoir (01-837 8402), Gate Notting Hill (01-221 0220), from Friday.



BOOKS
SCHOLAR POET: A.E. Housman had two lives: one as the greatest classicist scholar of his generation, the other as what John Berryman called "an absolutely marvellous minor poet". *The Shakespearean Poems* (1922). However, *Collected Poems and Selected Prose*, published this week (Allen Lane, £18.95), contains all his posthumously published verse. The editor, Christopher Ricks, contributes a characteristically perceptive introduction.



GALLERIES
HIT AND MYTH: Menelaus features in an exhibition of myth-inspired drawings and paintings by Alison Lambert at the Creaser Gallery, Portobello Road, west London (01-980 4928). Lambert's is one of 11 shows in this year's Portobello Contemporary Art Fair. The emphasis of the art, craft and photographic galleries in this district is on the promotion of young artists. One of the better known of these, painter Mario Rossi, is being shown at Anderson O'Day Fine Art. The four-day festival opens on Thursday.



DANCE
NORTHERN LIGHT: Mireille Bourgeois left London Festival Ballet this season to join Northern Ballet Theatre and its new director Christopher Gable. On Tuesday she opens Northern's London season in a role made specially to show her style and quality, presenting two imaginary aspects of the relationship between the painters Berthe Morisot and Edouard Manet. On the same bill, Gable and Lynn Seymour star in *A Simple Man*, about the life of another painter, L.S. Lowry. Sadler's Wells (01-278 8816) from Tuesday.



THEATRE
TRENCH TORMENT: Nicky Henson plays Osborne, a doomed officer, in R.C. Sheriff's *First World War Play Journey's End*. Set in a dug-out in the trenches on the eve of the German offensive of March 1918, the play was first staged in 1928 and has never lost its capacity to move the heart with its picture of the waste and pity of war. Jason Connery, son of the more famous Sean, plays the commanding officer, Stanhope, in Justin Greene's production. Whitehall Theatre (01-930 7765), previewing now, opens Tuesday.

THEATRE LONDON

A CAVALCADE OF COWARD: Elisabeth Welch, Tony Britton, company members from *Cats*, *Follies*, *42nd Street*, *Les Misérables*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *South Pacific*, and others in a cast of 200 for a 'favourite Noël Coward pieces' show raising funds for AIDS research. Piccadilly (01-437 4506), Sun, 7pm.

THE GREEN BAY TREE: Rare revival of Mordant Sharpe's 1933 play (Laurence Olivier went to New York with it) about a male-male-female triangle. Atic, Wimbledon Theatre, The Broadway, SW19 (01-540 0362), Opens Mon.

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE: Anthony Sher as Shylock in Bill Alexander's RSC Stratford production, with Deborah Findlay as Portia. Barbican (01-638 8891), Previews from Thurs. In repertory. Opens Apr 28.

SORE THROATS: Second of three Howard Brenton 'Plays for Utopia', about a woman's brutal encounter with her ex-husband. Nancy Duggill directs Hetta Charnley, James Laurencion and Linda Markowe. Royal Court Theatre Upstairs (01-730 1745), Previews from Thurs. Opens Apr 25.

THE TEMPEST: Peter Hall directs Michael Bryant, Tony Haycraft, Steven Mackintosh, Jennifer Hall in the first of the three Shakespeare plays to be presented as part of the National Theatre's contribution to the South Bank's End Games festival. Cottesloe (01-928 2252), Previews from Thurs. In repertory. Opens May 19.

TEMPTATION: Václav Havel's play, loosely based on the Faust legend, in Roger Michell's RSC Stratford production. The Pit (01-638 8891), Previews from Wed. In repertory. Opens Apr 25.

OUT OF TOWN

BASILDON: As You Like It: Kate O'Mara and Graham Pountney with the British Actors Company open the new Towngate Theatre, New Towngate Theatre, (0288 532632), Opens Mon.

BIRMINGHAM: Privates on Parade: Paul Greenwood and Paul Henry in Peter Nichols's bitter comedy (with songs) about the British in Burma, 1948. Repertory (021-238 4455), Opens tonight.

GUILDFORD: The Deep Blue Sea: Penelope Keith, David Yelland, Anthony Bate, John Nornington, directed by Alan Strachan, in a Terence Rattigan drama. Yvonne Arnaud (0453 60191), Opens Tues.

MANCHESTER: Winnie: Robert Hardy, Virginia McKenna, in a new musical about Winston Churchill, written and produced by Robin Hardy. Moves directly to the West End. Opera House (061 831 7766), Previews from tonight. Opens Apr 21.

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON: The Plain Dealer: William Wycherley's Restoration play, directed by Ron Daniels, has a cast led by David Calder, Mark Hadfield, and Marjorie Yates. Swan Theatre (0789 295623), Previews from Wed. Opens Apr 27.

DANCE

ROYAL BALLET: *Swan Lake* returns to the repertoire tonight, Wednesday and Thursday. Covent Garden (01-240 1066).

LONDON FESTIVAL BALLET: Natalia Makarova's *Swan Lake* until Thursday; then a programme

WORD-WATCHING

MURICATE
(a) Formed with sharp points, like the anthers shellfish, from which the Romans got not only their favourite purple dye, but also their best sword-fingers.

CHEVELURE
(c) The luminous appearance surrounding the nuclei of comets, from the French for the hair of the head, or a head of hair.

POD PEOPLE
(b) Stupid, machinelike people, from the extraterrestrial people in the film *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*; they spawned in pods, and then took over the bodies of human beings.

DANDIPRAT
(a) A small, insignificant, or contemptible fellow, also an archaic, derogatory term applied to a small silver coin issued under the monarchist monarch Henry VII.

INTERNATIONAL SEASON

Two French companies, Mathilde Monnier (tonight) and Jean-François Duroure (Tuesday), are followed Wednesday to Friday by Dance Continuum, from Rome. The Place (01-387 0031), Duroure at the French Institute (01-589 6211).

SCOTTISH BALLET: John Cranko's *Romeo and Juliet* at Aberdeen today, Edinburgh Wednesday to Saturday. His Majesty's, Aberdeen (0224-641122); Playhouse, Edinburgh (031-557 2590).

RADIO



● The life of Charles Dickens (above), as reflected in his own writings and those of his family and friends, is told in *The Best of Times - The Worst of Times*. In this seven-part series compiled by Michael Bakewell, Martin Jarvis appears as Dickens with Paul Daneman as the narrator. Other leading parts are played by Patricia Hayes, Harold Innocent, Gwen Caelell and Polly James. Radio 4, tomorrow, 7-7.40pm.

SAY IT WITH MUSIC: A celebration of the life and songs of Irving Berlin, born in Siberia 100 years ago next month. Presented in four parts by Benny Green. Radio 2, Tues, 9-9.55pm.

THE GOOD AND FAITHFUL: Domestic service between the wars as recalled by servants and their employers. Radio 4, Thurs, 8.15-9pm.

OPERA

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: Further performance on Mon at 8pm of Sir Peter Hall's new production of *Salome*, with Maria Ewing in the title role. On Tues and Fri at 7.30pm, revival of *Lucia di Lammermoor* continues, with John Pritchard conducting a cast led by Edita Gruberova. Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1066).

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: Nicholas Hytner's truly magical

PHOTOGRAPHY

THE HUNGARIAN CONNECTION: Show created by Colin Ford, of the National Museum of Photography, exploring the extraordinary flowering of talent in Hungary this century of committed photo-journalists. The Photographers Gallery, 5 and 8 Great Newport St, London, WC1 (01-631 1772), From Friday.

CONCERTS AFTERNOON

AMERICAN AFTERNOON: Carl Davis conducts the LPO in Copland's *Appalachian Spring*, Ives's *Central Park in the Dark*, Germain's *Rhapsody in Blue* (Howard Shelley, piano). Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928-3191, cc 01-928-8800), Tomorrow, 3.15pm.

KREUTZER AFTERNOON: György Pauk (violin) plays Beethoven's Kreutzer Sonata, Gabriel Woolf reads passages from Tolstoy's *The Kreutzer Sonata*, the Arditi Quartet perform Janáček's Quartet No 1 'Kreutzer Sonata'. Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore St, London W1 (01-835-2141), Tomorrow, 4pm.

WALKS

ALLEYS AND BYWAYS OF OLD LONDON: meet today at St Paul's tube, 2pm, 22.25.

THE LONDON OF DICKENS AND SHAKESPEARE: meet today, 11am, 23 (also next Sat).

CITY OF YORK: meet tomorrow, Exhibition Square, 10.15am and 2.15pm, free (daily).

A LONDON VILLAGE - CHELSEA: meet tomorrow, Sloane Square tube, 11am, 22.25.

ROCK

FRANK ZAPPA: Erratic, prolific, eccentric, occasional genius. Tonight, Brighton Centre (0273 202881); Mon and Tues, Wembley Arena, Middlesex (01-902 1234); Wed, NEC, Birmingham (021-780 4133).

RUSH: Heavy Canadian technofishers. Thurs, NEC, Birmingham (021-780 4133).

MIRIAM MAKEBA: South African singer with band featuring musicians from Paul Simon's Graceland tour. Fri, Usher Hall, Edinburgh (031-228 1164).

FILMS

A FLAME IN MY HEART (18): Alain Tanner's lugubrious drama, shot in black-and-white; very much a

TELEVISION

TALKING HEADS: A series of dramatic monologues by Alan Bennett starts with Bennett himself playing a middle-aged man talking about his mother's romance with an old flame. BBC1, Tues, 9.30-10.10pm.

THE NATURE OF AUSTRALIA: The first of six programmes features the courtship of the platypus, marsupial kangaroos and koalas. BBC2, Tues, 9.30-10.25pm.

AN OCEAN APART: A seven-part series looking at the state of Anglo-American relations. BBC1, 9.30-10.30pm.



● Sarah Miles (above) as the Irish girl who marries a widowed schoolteacher (Robert Mitchum) in David Lean's 1970 film, *River of No Return*. The film may be slight but it is full of pictorial splendour and contains an Oscar-winning performance by John Mills as the village idiot. *River of No Return* was so marred by the critics that Lean did not make another picture until *A Passage to India* 14 years later. BBC1, Friday, 10.20-1.30pm.

MIRROR (1974): Russian director Andrei Tarkovsky reflecting memories of his wartime boyhood. Channel 4, Thurs, 12.30-2.30am.

THE BIG HEAT (1953): Fritz Lang's mastery thriller with Glenn Ford quitting the police force to avenge his wife's murder. Channel 4, Fri, 11.45pm-1.30am.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

BBC1 WALES: 5.15pm-5.30pm Sports News; 5.30pm-5.45pm News; 5.45pm-6.00pm Northern Ireland results; 6.15pm Inside Out News; 6.30pm-6.45pm News; 6.45pm-7.00pm Sports; 7.00pm-7.15pm News; 7.15pm-7.30pm News; 7.30pm-7.45pm News; 7.45pm-8.00pm News; 8.00pm-8.15pm News; 8.15pm-8.30pm News; 8.30pm-8.45pm News; 8.45pm-9.00pm News; 9.00pm-9.15pm News; 9.15pm-9.30pm News; 9.30pm-9.45pm News; 9.45pm-10.00pm News; 10.00pm-10.15pm News; 10.15pm-10.30pm News; 10.30pm-10.45pm News; 10.45pm-11.00pm News; 11.00pm-11.15pm News; 11.15pm-11.30pm News; 11.30pm-11.45pm News; 11.45pm-12.00pm News; 12.00pm-12.15pm News; 12.15pm-12.30pm News; 12.30pm-12.45pm News; 12.45pm-1.00pm News; 1.00pm-1.15pm News; 1.15pm-1.30pm News; 1.30pm-1.45pm News; 1.45pm-2.00pm News; 2.00pm-2.15pm News; 2.15pm-2.30pm News; 2.30pm-2.45pm News; 2.45pm-3.00pm News; 3.00pm-3.15pm News; 3.15pm-3.30pm News; 3.30pm-3.45pm News; 3.45pm-4.00pm News; 4.00pm-4.15pm News; 4.15pm-4.30pm News; 4.30pm-4.45pm News; 4.45pm-5.00pm News; 5.00pm-5.15pm News; 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7.30pm-7.45pm News; 7.45pm-8.00pm News; 8.00pm-8.15pm News; 8.15pm-8.30pm News; 8.30pm

SLINDAY

SLINDAY



to Shirley Du Boulay (r) 8.30 Talk of the Town. Talk of the Town: Shirley Ellis to the ways in which we put talk (S) By The Pot Pan Cornish Chronicle (S) 9.00 News: Fine Arts and a selection of music (S) 9.15 The Natural History Programme (r) 9.55 Soundbite 10.10 News 10.15 Weather: the story lonely hearts (r) advert Colette Sinclair (r) (S) 11.00 Committees: A weekly report on Parliament's committees 11.30 Seeds of Faith: Can Farmer talents take to the Ball, Sutherland Bachop and member of Community of the Glorious Ascension (S) 12.00 News, 12.20 Weather 12.33 Shopping: VHF as above except 7.00 8.00am: Open University, 7.20 Democracy in theory and practice, 7.20 Clergy and Class 7.40 Musical Style 1.25-2.00pm Programme News 2.00-2.05pm 4.30 On Course 5.00 Where Spain 5.30 Language Extra 6.30 Genz special (S) 9.09kHz/230mV HF-88-90.2 R. 7.3. Capital: 1548kHz/194mV; VHF

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Country: *Stairway to the ways in which people talk* (3) By *Tro Pol Pan*
9.00 News: *Fine Arts* Brazil
 a reaction of music (3)
9.15 The Natural History
 Programme (7) 9.55
 Weather
10.00 News
10.15 Soundtrack: the story
 lonely hearts advertisement
 Coletta Sinclair (7) 10.15
11.00 In Committee: A review
 report on Parliament's
 committees
11.30 Seeds of Faith: Colin
 Semper talks to Ray P
 Ball, Surinagar
 President and member of
 the Assembly of the Globe
 Ascension (3)
12.00 News, 12.30
 12.33 Shipping
 VHF as above except 7.00
 7.00 News: *University: 7.00*
 Democracy in theory and
 practice
 7.20 Clothing and Class 7.40
 Musical Style 7.55-2.00pm
 Programme News 2.00-5.00
 Options: *Art dealing with*
 4.30 pm Course 5.00 Extra
 Spain 5.30 Spanish World
 Ganz special

SATURDAY APRIL 16 1988

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share

1415.7 (-0.5)

FT-SE 100

1778.8 (-8.6)

Bargains

26144 (25723)

USM (Datastream)

146.86 (-0.6)

THE POUND

US dollar

1.8880 (+0.0120)

W German mark

3.1331 (+0.0124)

Trade-weighted

78.3 (+0.4)

Dixons to

seek quote

in Tokyo

Dixons Group, the electrical

retailer, has announced plans

for a listing on the Tokyo

Stock Exchange at the end of

next month, with 9.3 million

shares being offered to Japanese

investors to raise about

£14 million net.

The issue represents about

2.5 per cent of the group's

equity and is being handled by

Daiwa Securities and SG Warburg's

Tokyo office.

Mr Richard Kalms, Dixons'

director of corporate affairs,

who is making a presentation to

Japanese financial institutions

in Tokyo next week, said the

listing reflected the group's

long-standing relationship with

Japanese companies, principally

suppliers. It follows a similar

exercise in New York last November.

Meanwhile, the group has

also announced a new structure

to bring together more closely

its two main retailing arms, Dixons and Currys.

The reorganization, expected

to be in place by May next year,

will create a new company, Dixons

Stores Group, although Dixons and

Currys will continue to trade

under their own names.

GKN disposal

GKN has completed the sale

for £142 million of GKN

Kent Alloys to Parkfield

Group. GKN Kent Alloys last

reported a pretax profit of £1.2

million on a turnover of £24

million.

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York

2004.14 (-1.50)

Tokyo

2888.57 (-217.78)

Hong Kong

2588.95 (-88.18)

Amsterdam

247.3 (-8.0)

Sydney

1498.6 (-30.9)

Frankfurt

1388.3 (-27.0)

Brussels

4680.5 (-78.5)

Paris

278.6 (-2.2)

Cairns

456.5 (-1.1)

London

FT-SE 100

1778.8 (-8.6)

FT-SE 250

1007.87 (-4.52)

FT-SE 100

217.5 (+0.5)

FT-SE 100

97.92 (-0.07)

FT-SE 100

91.28 (+0.17)

Recent issues

Page 26

Closing prices

Page 28

RISER PRICE CHANGES

Anglo Sec

427p (+10p)

Coats Wythe

250p (+10p)

Thorn

285p (+10p)

Cybernet

112p (+7p)

Gael Petroleum

102p (+11p)

Ultramar

275p (+10p)

Courtauld

357p (+25p)

FALLS

Bridgforth

152p (-12p)

Fitch Design

375p (-10p)

J Smurfit

382p (-11p)

Ranger

307p (-12p)

Tomkins

480p (-20p)

Dreyfus Japan

960p (-15p)

Graham House

405p (-20p)

RTZ

360p (-10p)

Asbury

275p (-10p)

FAI

173p (-10p)

Blockleys

380p (-10p)

Vibroplant

682p (-10p)

Closing prices

Page 28

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 8%

3-month interbank: 6.75%

3-month sterling bills: 7.25%

buying rate

US Prime Rate: 8.5%

Federal Funds: 6.5%

3-month Treasury Bills: 5.85-5.89%

30-year bonds: 9.5-9.9%

CURRENCIES

London: New York

£1.8880

£1.8890

£1.8900

£1.8910

£1.8920

£1.8930

£1.8940

£1.8950

£1.8960

£1.8970

£1.8980

£1.8990

£1.9000

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£1.9270

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£2.0580

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Losses cut to £184,000 at Oilfield Inspection

Oilfield Inspection Services Group of Aberdeen, the North Sea service company that last month lost its independence to a consortium led by Mr Paul Bristol, the oil industry financier, and Sheikh Amin Al-Dahlawi of Jeddah, reduced its losses before tax last year from £982,000 to £184,000. Turnover dipped to £11.5 million from £11.88 million.

Like many other offshore service and supply companies, OIS has been burdened by falling oil prices and the slump in North Sea oil activity over the past two years, and has been struggling to lessen its dependence on the oil and gas sector. The costs of restructuring, including the disposal of its engineering and water-jetting businesses, are still weighing on OIS.

T&N sells for £12.5m

T&N, the engineering group, has sold its Stores decorative and specialty printing products operations to Borden, the US group which owns Crown wallpapers and wallcoverings, for £12.5 million. Stores, based in Morecambe, Lancashire, comprises three companies with combined sales last year of £17 million.

St Ives buys printing firm

St Ives Group, the printing company, is paying a maximum £1 million for Bryer & Spencer, a London specialist printer. An initial consideration of £700,000 will be followed by a further payment of up to £300,000 depending on future profits. The acquisition is being funded by the issue of 353,000 new St Ives shares.

Turriff's triple buy

Turriff Corporation, the construction and marketing services group, has made three acquisitions to strengthen its international plant and equipment maintenance and information and marketing services divisions. It is buying Chelgrave Contracting, the Melbourne company, for £360,000 to extend its Australian staff placement activities into the state of Victoria.

In Britain, the group is paying £330,000 for Focus, a direct mail and mail order processing company in Liverpool, with two further payments based on future turnover. In the US, Bellman Data International, a Turriff subsidiary, is buying a 40 per cent stake in MicroMedia for up to £1.1 million, depending on this year's profits.

Jarvis & Sons acquisitions

J Jarvis & Sons, the builder, is buying the head leasehold interest in Churchgate Shopping Centre, Hitchen, Hertfordshire, for £1.95 million, the third party interest in 99 Charterhouse Street, London, for £350,000 and Newsweek House, Slough, for £2.05 million. The buys will be funded by a placing and open offer to shareholders.

Hatfield buys loss-maker

Hatfield Estates, the property developer, is paying £128,000 in shares for loss-making Kingham Construction, based in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. Kingham, which is mainly active in the Thames Valley and West London, made pre-tax losses of £90,000 on turnover of £2.8 million in the year to last June.

Powerscreen deal

Powerscreen International, the former British Beulz group, has bought Belleek, the Northern Ireland maker of handcrafted porcelain, for £2.86 million. The deal is being funded by the issue to the vendors of 2.51 million new shares in Powerscreen, which are being sold to Banque Paribas Capital Markets. Most of Belleek's output is either exported or goes to the tourist trade. Powerscreen said it intended to operate the business independently. Belleek, which employs 154 people, made pre-tax profits of £428,000 in the year to March 31 on sales of £2.86 million. Its net assets at the year-end totalled £3.08 million.

STOCK MARKET

Courtaulds value soars by £100m on mystery buying

More than £100 million was added to the market value of Courtaulds, Britain's biggest textiles group, in late trading yesterday as the shares leapt 26p to 358p on whispers that someone has bought a large stake in the company.

At one stage, the price came within a whisker of its peak of 370p as more than 6 million shares were traded.

Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers, the broker, is thought to have bought the shares on behalf of a mystery buyer who may now speak for about 3 per cent of the equity. Scrimgeour is known to have been a big buyer of Courtaulds in recent weeks.

Courtaulds was badly hit by the market crash but has made a dramatic recovery, helped by unlikely suggestions that the acquisitive Hanson had passed its slide rule over the group.

The company has staged a remarkable turnaround in recent years which has seen it shed its old threadbare image. It now enjoys a strong following in the City including the likes of Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the broker, which also rates the shares a buy. BZW is looking for pretax profits of £220 million for the year just ended compared with £201 million last time.

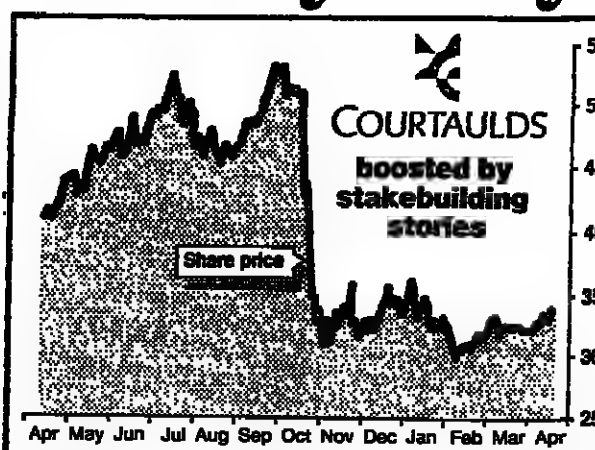
Fears that London would open sharply lower after Wall Street's 101-point overnight fall proved unfounded as dealers kept their nerve in sensitive trading conditions.

Market-makers priced leading stocks defensively lower at the opening in order to deter panic selling which proved successful as fund managers preferred to sit tight and wait to see if there would be any further deterioration in sentiment across the Atlantic.

Prices soon started to recover from the dull opening helped by continuing talk that further takeovers were in the melting pot. This kept speculators busy and the market's mind on events elsewhere.

Nerves became a little frayed when Wall Street opened in resumed trading with a further fall of more than 20 points, but again very little selling materialized and dealers were proved correct as prices in the US improved.

The FT-SE 100 share index recovered from an early fall of



24.1 to close only 8.6 down at 1,778.6, while the narrower FT 30 share index finished 0.5 down at 1,415.7. As dealers made their way home last night, most of them were expressing satisfaction with the day's events.

Government securities helped by the stronger pound finish the day sporting gains of 1/4.

The food sector continued to be a hive of takeover activity.

The rumoured bid from either Hershey of the US or Nestlé of Switzerland for

Clyde Petroleum has become the latest company to be gripped by bid fever. Its shares stood out with a rise of 16p to 143 1/2p on whispers that British & Commonwealth had sold its 6 per cent stake to EN Aquitaine, the French group, still smarting after failing to win control of Tricentral.

Rowntree, the Aero, Kit Kat, Smarties and Rolo chocolate group, failed to materialize. But there was still plenty of turnover in the shares with dealers convinced that Jacobs Suchard's dawn raid at 630p earlier this week will flush out a bid from a third party.

Rowntree, which had already risen 236p in two hectic trading sessions, fluctuated between extremes of 738p and 697p before forging ahead again to close at 710p, a fall on the day of 3p, with 6.6 million shares changing hands.

County NatWest Woodmac, the broker, is convinced a takeover battle for Rowntree is looming and claims the takeover price is likely to be more than £10 a share.

There was also increased speculation that Cadbury Schweppes, the confectionery and drinks group, could also be swallowed by an overseas predator. The shares raced away in hectic trading to touch 291p before closing 19p higher at 289p.

General Cinema of the US holds a near-18 per cent stake and remains the favourite to launch a full-scale offer.

However, the talk yesterday was that General Cinema was on the verge of selling its holding to another party hell-bent on getting its teeth into Cadbury.

County NatWest Woodmac is also a fan of Cadbury and reckons that there is scope for improvement in the share price which could also receive a boost from the recent analysts' presentation in Spain.

Ranks Hovis McDougall improved 3p to 330p, after 33 1/2p, as dealers continued to think that Goodman Fielder, the Australian group, will soon use its 29 per cent stake as a launch pad for a full bid.

Other strong performers in the food sector included Bassetts which jumped by 14p to 235p and United Biscuits, 12p better at 277p.

Matthew Hall, the engineering group, jumped 14p to 153p on talk that the recent disappointing results has left it vulnerable to a bid.

BICC, the electrical group, has been linked with Matthew Hall in the past, but yesterday Coston, the building group, was mentioned as an interested suitor.

Coston has troubles of its own with Trafalgar House breathing down its neck with a stake of about 7 per cent.

Dealers claim it might bid for Matthew Hall in order to fend off a possible offer from Trafalgar House.

In the oil sector, Premier Consolidated, in which Burmah holds a 25 per cent shareholding, edged 6p to 69p on speculation that Arco was on the verge of launching a bid.

Laporte Industries, the chemicals group, edged forward 2p to 379p as investors started to nibble ahead of the full-year figures scheduled for next next Wednesday.

Mr Martin Evans, analyst at Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers, believes the shares are due for a re-rating and have been neglected for too long.

He is going for pretax profits of £74.5 million against £64.2 million. He detects no justifiable reason for the underperformance of the shares. Their prolonged period in the doldrums has resulted in them hovering around its lowest p-e for three years. With the prospect of above-average earnings growth, the shares are a buy.

Shares of WH Smith "A", the high street retailer, fell 5p to 280p after analysts at Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers, the broker, downgraded their profits forecast for the current year from £83 million to £78 million. This follows a similar move made by rival Philips & Drew last week.

Mothercare and Richards stores group headed by Sir Terence Conran, ended 10p better at 268p as more than 6 million shares were traded. Reports circulating in the marketplace claim that Mr Tony Clegg, chairman of Mountleigh, the property group, has not given up the idea of launching a full bid for the company. He is said to have visited a number of brokers this week, including Scrimgeour Vickers and Kleinwort Greaveson.

There is talk that he would like to gather together a consortium to make an offer for Storehouse in order to get his hands on its valuable property portfolio.

Geoffrey Foster

WALL STREET

Dow slips further in early trading

New York (Agencies) — Share prices turned lower in active early trading yesterday, as weakness in the broad market carried into blue chips.

The Dow Jones industrial average, which fell 101.46 points overnight, was down 5.97 to 1,999.67 at one stage when the transport indicator lost 10.76 to 831.09. The utilities average slipped 1.18 to 168.98.

The broader New York Stock Exchange composite index fell 1.01 to 146.13.

Declining shares led advancing issues by a margin of about four to one.

Frankfurt — Shares prices fell on the weakness of the dollar following the release of a much wider-than-expected US February trade deficit.

Trading was very light. The FAZ index declined 9.21 points to 454.49.

Deutsche Bank was down DM14.20 to DM417.80, while Commerzbank was down DM8.00 to DM230.50.

EL4

Tokyo — Share prices de-

clined following Wall Street's 101-point plunge overnight on a larger-than-expected US February trade deficit, but the response was surprisingly muted.

"The fundamentals haven't changed," said a broker at one of the big four securities houses.

The Nikkei average lost 217.78 points to close at 26,893.57. It gained 123.80 points on Thursday.

Singapore — The stock market closed sharply lower across the board on selling pressure and profit-taking in moderate trading, dealers said.

The Straits Times industrial index lost 2.5 per cent to 933.44 points from Thursday's close of 957.11.

Hongkong — Shares declined on a broad front, with the Hang Seng index closing at 2,591.39, down 92.39 points.

Sydney — Prices fell on the Sydney stock exchange with the All-Ordinaries industrial index closing down 30.9 at 1,436.8.

	Apr 14	Apr 13	Apr 12	Apr 11	Apr 10	Apr 9	Apr 8	Apr 7	Apr 6	Apr 5	Apr 4	Apr 3	Apr 2	Apr 1	Mar 31	Mar 30	Mar 29	Mar 28	Mar 27	Mar 26	Mar 25	Mar 24	Mar 23	Mar 22	Mar 21	Mar 20	Mar 19	Mar 18	Mar 17	Mar 16	Mar 15	Mar 14	Mar 13	Mar 12	Mar 11	Mar 10	Mar 9	Mar 8	Mar 7	Mar 6	Mar 5	Mar 4	Mar 3	Mar 2	Mar 1	Feb 29	Feb 28	Feb 27	Feb 26	Feb 25	Feb 24	Feb 23	Feb 22	Feb 21	Feb 20	Feb 19	Feb 18	Feb 17	Feb 16	Feb 15	Feb 14	Feb 13	Feb 12	Feb 11	Feb 10	Feb 9	Feb 8	Feb 7	Feb 6	Feb 5	Feb 4	Feb 3	Feb 2	Feb 1	Jan 31	Jan 30	Jan 29	Jan 28	Jan 27	Jan 26	Jan 25	Jan 24	Jan 23	Jan 22	Jan 21	Jan 20	Jan 19	Jan 18	Jan 17	Jan 16	Jan 15	Jan 14	Jan 13	Jan 12	Jan 11	Jan 10	Jan 9	Jan 8	Jan 7	Jan 6	Jan 5	Jan 4	Jan 3	Jan 2	Jan 1	Dec 31	Dec 30	Dec 29	Dec 28	Dec 27	Dec 26	Dec 25	Dec 24	Dec 23	Dec 22	Dec 21	Dec 20	Dec 19	Dec 18	Dec 17	Dec 16	Dec 15	Dec 14	Dec 13	Dec 12	Dec 11	Dec 10	Dec 9	Dec 8	Dec 7	Dec 6	Dec 5	Dec 4	Dec 3	Dec 2	Dec 1	Nov 30	Nov 29	Nov 28	Nov 27	Nov 26	Nov 25	Nov 24	Nov 23	Nov 22	Nov 21	Nov 20	Nov 19	Nov 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Sheehy on attack as BAT steps up fight for Farmers

By Colin Campbell

BAT Industries, clearly running out of patience at the hurdles placed in its path for a takeover of Farmers Group, yesterday said it interprets Farmers' latest moves "as a clear attempt to avoid" negotiations, and further charged that Farmers' management actions may not be in the best interests of their shareholders.

The latest turn in the \$4.5 billion (\$2.4 billion) bid battle for the US insurance group, which started in January and looks set to run and run, is a letter from Mr Patrick Sheehy, the BAT chairman, to Farmers' board, expressing disappointment that Farmers has chosen to ignore its requests to enter into good faith negotiations.

BAT's BAT's US vehicle, has formally proposed a \$63-a-share cash bid for Farmers, and has been anxious to meet Farmers' board to discuss its proposals. To date, there has only been lawyer-to-lawyer contact, and at the same time

letters from both sides are being given a public airing.

So far, the tone has been polite. Now the mood is "gloves off" after a week of frustrating legal discussion over the draft of a confidentiality agreement that Farmers wanted BAT to sign ahead of any talks.

The draft confidentiality agreement, which BAT finds it cannot sign, included proposals that BAT be restricted from buying any shares in Farmers for certain periods — which could have extended well beyond six months — as well as other restrictions.

In his letter, Mr Sheehy says his company has been "presented with unreasonable standstill terms", and therefore BAT has been precluded from ever reaching meaningful negotiations on the price for Farmers shares.

He further charges that BAT has been denied information that Farmers has given to third parties, and further

that Farmers has indicated it might court such parties to make a bid under conditions that would leave BAT at a disadvantage.

"We wish to restate our position that we are prepared to pay in excess of \$63 in cash per Farmers share in a negotiated transaction approved by the board," Mr Sheehy says.

"Depending on the nature and extent of the non-public information which you have already given to others, such price improvement could be substantial."

The letter also alleges that the directors of Farmers Group may be in breach of their fiduciary duties if they go ahead with certain actions they have in mind.

Future events include a court hearing in California starting on May 4, the judge's ruling being handed down on May 13, and a Farmers shareholders meeting on May 20.

Blue Circle's new strategy lifts earnings to £155m

By Alexandra Jackson

Significant cost savings in domestic cement manufacturing, higher property profits and lower interest costs allowed Blue Circle Industries to increase 1987 pretax profits from £127 million to £155 million.

Mr David Poole, managing director, said this showed the first fruits of the group's new strategy.

"To make another bid for Birmid Quilcast is one of the options open to us, given our 44 per cent shareholding. We have met Birmid but are not seeking board representation," he said.

Last year Blue Circle, whose chairman is Sir John Milne, increased earnings per share from 38.3p to 47.7p. A final dividend of 10p was declared making a total of 15p, up 30 per cent. Gearing was reduced from 42.2 per cent to 15.6 per cent.

Property profits doubled from £8.5 million to £16.7 million.

Mr Poole said cement sales were expected to be 60 per cent of turnover this year against 78 per cent last year.

See Tempera, below



Flying the flag: David Poole (left), and Sir John Milne

Prontaprint in agreed £10m bid

Continuous Stationery, the business forms manufacturer, is paying £10.1 million for Prontaprint, the USM high-speed franchised print shops company.

The offer is 11 Continuous Stationery shares and 380p cash for every 10 Prontaprint shares, or a cash alternative of 129.85p per Prontaprint share.

The recommended bid forms part of Continuous Stationery's aim of lifting its standing in the business supplies and services market. It hopes to draw in more customers from small businesses.

Eventually the Prontaprint outlets will be upgraded into business centres, offering everything from a photocopy or facsimile to design and desktop publishing.

Prontaprint's directors consider that taxable profits for the year to March 1988 were at least £850,000, signalling that the group is back on course after returning to its core business.

Cap raider revealed

Cap Gemini Societ, the largest computer software company in France, was revealed yesterday as last week's dawn raider on the British company Cap Group, but said that it would not mount a full bid.

The announcement that CGS had a holding of 6 million shares — 14.9 per cent of the equity — in CAP Group, which is currently merging with another French company, has not pleased the British company.

The two companies have been linked since 1975, when CGS was formed out of a merger between two French companies and a third with which Cap had a joint venture.

Cap shareholders yesterday agreed to a merger with the French Sema-Meira concern to form a software house.

Cap Group claimed that the refusal by CGS to reveal its identity until it was legally required to under Stock Exchange rules was "in conflict with its assertion that its approach is friendly."

Profit warning at Whinney

Shares in Whinney Mackay-Lewis dived from 185p to 103p yesterday after the USM-quoted architect and designer gave a warning that it is unlikely to be profitable in this year's second half.

It blames the setback mainly on two sizeable projects which have been brought to a premature halt.

Parkinson's progress rests on wise advice and a good market

No one will be watching the stock market's behaviour with keener interest than Mrs Thatcher and her ministers directly responsible for the privatization programme. A grey market, let alone a bear market, would be a serious threat.



KENNETH FLEET

Thursday's gyrations in a market that is now totally hooked into Wall Street will have killed any thought of selling the other half of British Telecom. A secondary offering of stock worth some £4.5 billion would need a very fair wind indeed. British Steel and the first drippings of the 12 water boards are not due until next year — but who can afford to be complacent?

The Big One, of course, is electricity. This week NMR Rothschild was confirmed as merchant banking adviser to all 12 area boards — the segment of the industry to be privatized first. Their worth at the point of sale could be anything between £6 and £9 billion, but whatever the figure an offer on this scale would be out of the question in the kind of market we have today.

Vesting day is January 1, 1990 (ending any idea of floating the boards in the autumn of next year) and the earliest date is in the spring of that year. Even that is a tight squeeze and both NMR and Price Waterhouse, who are advising the boards on structures, contracts and other matters within the proper sphere of accountants, will have their work cut out. Contracts with the generators for supplying electricity, the cost of which is the bulk of the distributors' costs, are crucial to their profitability and need to be firmly in the prospectus. Otherwise the generators, Lord Marshall's Central Electricity

Generating Board ("Big G") and the 30 per cent competing generator to be carved out of the CEBG ("Little G") would have to be privatized first.

It is important for the Government, and particularly Cecil Parkinson, whose upward career path needs a smooth detour through the Department of Energy, to launch the area boards successfully and according to schedule. Problems are mounting with the future of nuclear energy and nuclear plants, and with the highly complex regime of regulation under which privatized electricity will operate. So much so that it is looking increasingly likely that Little G will be privatized before Big G, and Big G will not be offered to the public until after the next general election. The earliest Little G could be brought to the market is the spring of 1991; a more realistic date is probably the autumn. The latest date for the next election is June 1992 but it is exceedingly rare for any Parliament to run its full course.

The politics of electricity privatization are much more than implied by election dates. The inevitable Cabinet reshuffle, barring accidents, is expected to take Mr Parkinson to another ministry. Early speculation is that the least he might expect is to head an amalgam of the Department of Trade and the Department of Energy, freeing

Lord Young to become chairman of the Conservative Party in good time to prepare for the general election. But Cecil's hopes would melt if he were seen to have misjudged or mishandled electricity.

So he will need the wise guidance and expert techniques of the appointed advisers — and a good market not swamped with a huge torrent of new issues. He has already been well served by Jim Smith, chairman of the Eastern board, and chairman of the area board chairmen, whose innovative mind, energy and inspiration have impressed even senior civil servants.

The first important initiative of the big area boards when they have their freedom will be to order their own generating plant, adding a new source of competition and giving commercially minded area distributors a chance to make serious money. Sir Philip Jones, chairman of the Electricity Council, is another key figure, who might well become chairman of Little G (another prospect that would have Lord Marshall leaping up and down).

But the mechanics should bring out the best from NMR and SG Warburg, who I suspect will be the other merchant bank on the prospects. The idea basically is a "starburst". All 12 area companies will be in one package, underwritten by investing institutions who like overseas buyers would want to keep their investment in that single form. Private investors will be given various incentives to invest in individual area companies, but such inducements would be available only to buyers of shares in the company supplying electricity in the area where they live.

The real trick of course will be to get the market right.

New wave of Continental bids begins

Ministers often propose and markets dispose. On Wednesday in Washington the Group of Seven finance ministers were united in their view that stable exchange rates were a good thing and without committing themselves to any pattern they conveyed a strong impression that they had in mind stability around the existing levels. This implied a willingness, though not, I think, a uniformly determined commitment, to intervene in the foreign exchange market to support the dollar, particularly against the ever-rising yen. The world did not have to wait long to see G7 put to the test.

The US trade figures for February were released on Thursday, revealing a deficit of \$13.8 billion (£7.5 billion) — the worst since the October deficit of \$17.6 billion. No one, least of all in New York, has forgotten what else happened in October. The reaction to the February figures was immediate: the dollar, though supported through central bank intervention, dropped in dismay and the Dow Jones industrial average fell more than 100 points.

If America has not yet got a grip on its foreign trade it may mean higher US interest rates: it certainly means an uncertain dollar. Confidence is a delicate

flower, easily damaged, and Wall Street's recovery from the October crash turns on the dollar's fortunes.

Wall Street is now facing its stiffest test since the immediate aftermath of the October crash. The same is true of London, which remains firmly coupled to New York, although because share prices have not recovered to the same extent as in New York (not to mention Tokyo), they should be more resilient. The market had rallied more than 100 points by Thursday morning but remained short of conviction. Private investors have become more like fund managers: when stung most prefer to stay away. Hence the persistently low level of turnover in what I described last week as a "not very satisfactory market." In the light of the latest turn of events across the Atlantic the incentive to take risks and buy is minimal. If Wall Street becomes suicidal then obviously the May selling season would come early this year.

If the outlook is inert and not panic there is more time to think about what the market has to offer. It is idle to pretend that falling share prices (and certainly changing exchange rates) do not change companies' underlying value. Equally their value does not evaporate overnight. There is a belief,

which I share, that British industry, measured in stock market terms, is cheap — and there is satisfaction in buying shares for less than one might have done. This is not a compelling argument, only an encouraging thought.

I will add another. Corporate activity — mergers and acquisitions — in the City is brisk and becoming brisker. It is handicapped to a degree by the market's hesitation once the FT-SE index passes 1,800 and the market-makers' tactics of taking positions "fixed" on Wall Street. But London has a new European dimension that promises to sustain values, activity and interest.

With their eyes on the integrated market promised for 1992, big Continental companies are seeing the advantages of being part of the London market, and the attractions of British companies. This week's raid on Rowntree by Jacobs Suchard is a potent sign of things to come. Continental companies are still reluctant to make the first move but are immediately interested if a significant British company is put into play by another bidder. *Compagnie du Midi's* successful offer for Equity & Law is a good example. I will be very surprised if Suchard is not challenged for Rowntree, probably by Nestlé.

Chrysalis hits a low note with City after US records setback

The pop music business has consistently failed to strike the right chord with the stock market. Whatever the reasons, there are grounds for thinking that the City's reservations about the business are well-founded.

Certainly, the results yesterday from Chrysalis, formed out of the merger with Management Agency and Music, leave the company languishing in the popularity charts.

Pretax profits at the half-year stage are down from \$5 million to £2 million and for the full year the company will at best only marginally improve on the £6.2 million last time.

Mr Chris Wright, the chairman, blames the shortfall on losses of £500,000 in the US records business, leaving the earnings for the division down from £3.8 million to £1.4 million.

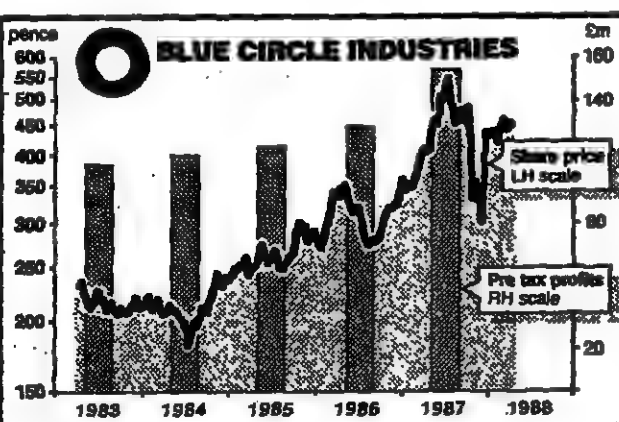
The problem was caused by Chrysalis being starved of releases from its roster of popular artists — a quirk in its schedule which meant that it also missed out on the all-important Christmas market.

The City might think that it is the responsibility of a record company to smooth out its cycle of releases to avoid just this sort of problem but apparently it happens in the business — and could well happen again.

Reorganization of its pub amusement machine business coupled with higher rents demanded by the brewers trimmed Chrysalis's other important source, leaving profits down at £600,000 from £830,000.

Chrysalis is ready to launch a clutch of new album releases which should enable the records division to recover some ground during the second half.

Even so, the market, already wary since the row over the severe profit downgrading by the company's previous brokers, is going to take some convincing that Chrysalis is a stock worth buying. The shares at 125p and on a p/e of 8.7 look fairly valued.



Blue Circle

Blue Circle Industries has known for years how to turn cement into cash, but it has only recently publicly acknowledged that the best place to reinvest the money is not in more cement assets.

The establishment of this principle is even more important than it seems, and involves quite a change of culture. Cement has now to justify its position as one of the group's broadening spread of activities and not the most important one.

Indeed, looking ahead, one can speculate that a time may come when Blue Circle would be well advised to do the brave thing and sell its cement interests.

Last year saw a string of changes after the break-up of the cement industry's price-fixing agreement. Changes in distribution methods and improved production efficiencies reduced costs by £30 million.

But increased competition after the ending of the price agreement led to lower prices and loss of market share. This absorbed nearly half these savings.

This year, however, volumes are firm, which is helping prices, and market share should be retained. Thus in 1988, with further efficiency drives, cost savings similar to those in 1987 should come through.

Overseas, the biggest question mark hangs over the United States. Although pricing in the Atlanta ready-mixed

concrete market has become less cut-throat, selling cement in oil and agriculture-oriented regions remains tough.

Yet despite this, and the currency risk, Blue Circle expects US profits to rise.

These factors will combine with similar earnings from property and overseas cement and some growth from building products to push group profits to £185 million.

But where will the group go from there? Blue Circle is widely expected to bid again for Birmid Quilcast early next year unless it agrees a merger in the meantime. Even so, the pressure is on to reinvest some of the strong cash flow in another building products business — gearing, post 44 per cent of Birmid, is only 22 per cent.

Magnet, the manufacturer of timber products including kitchens and bedrooms, fits perfectly. A deal here would not raise monopolistic eyebrows if BCI then also went back for Birmid.

But if Blue Circle does not move fast, investors may spot that earnings could level out again, or of course someone else may decide they could use the cash flow better.

Antibiotics

Antibiotics form one of the largest ethical drug categories, with sales worth \$10 billion (£5.3 billion), accounting for 9 per cent of the pharmaceutical market.

Since they are prescribed for specific infections, antibiotic

sales depend on hygiene, and on the incidence of infection. New antibiotics are needed to combat new resistant strains of bacteria. Sales will grow as the population expands and as it ages, since the elderly often become more prone to infection. In addition, the value of the market is expanding as old drugs are phased out in favour of more recent introductions which inevitably cost more.

With so many safe and effective products available, the market is fiercely competitive. The underlying sales growth is only about 11 per cent a year, and the manufacturers will need to rely increasingly on sophisticated marketing allied with low cost production to stay ahead of the game.

A study from County Nat-West WoodMac (CNWM), the stockbroker, targets Beecham, the world's second largest manufacturer of antibiotics, as the strongest British player. Antibiotics account for 19 per cent of its sales, and for years, the conventional wisdom has viewed this heavy dependence as a main weakness, precisely because of the market's maturity and competitiveness.

But Amoxil, its biggest selling product, is still enjoying steady, if declining, growth, in spite of being out of patent in many countries. The real excitement is in Augmentin, its second-largest selling product which is likely to overtake Amoxil next year.

Augmentin was launched in the US in 1984 and Japan in 1986 and, as it becomes more widely available, CNWM predicts sales of £400 million by 1991-92 compared with £115 million in 1986-87. CNWM also looks forward to widening margins, as incremental sales revenues fall almost straight through to the bottom line.

As a result, CNWM forecasts pretax profits for the Beecham Group of £405 million for the year to March 1988, and it recommends buying the shares. The prospective multiple is 14.5, falling to 12.6 next year, and the yield is an attractive 4.2 per cent.

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Date

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dividend, a Cum dividend, is Cum split, or Ex stock split, as Cum all days or more or above, or Ex all days or more. Dangling of day: (1) Monday, (2) Tuesday, (3) Wednesday, (4) Thursday of month, (21) 2nd Thursday of m., (22) 1st and 2nd Wednesday of m., (23) 20th of month, (24) 1st and 3rd Wednesday of month, (25) 1st and 3rd Thursday of month, (26) 1st and 3rd Friday of month, (27) 1st Wednesday of month, (28) 1st Thursday of month, (29) 2nd working day of month, (30) 16th of month, (31) 1st working day of month, (32) 20th of month, (33) 24th of month, (34) 1st working day of month, (35) 16th of month, (36) 1st day of m., (37) 21st of month, (38) 2nd day of month, (39) 2nd day of month, (40) 1st and 2nd day of month, (41) Last Thursday of month, (42) Last day of month, (43) 2nd and 4th Wednesday of month, (44) Quarterly, (45) 6th of month.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES					OTHER STERLING RATES	
Range		Closes	1 month	3 month		
Market rates for April 16						
New York	1.8775-1.8885	1.8875	1.8950	0.53-0.54p	Argentine austral*	12.653-12.765
London	2.5158-2.5268	2.5260	2.5298	0.62-0.63p	Australia dollar	5.5292-5.5251
Frankfurt	3.5510-3.5610	3.5510	3.5610	21-22p	Bahrian	1.7100-1.7110
Brussels	65.34-65.70	65.58	65.70	21-22p	Brazil cruzeiro	232.80-230.40
Geneva	12.0076-12.0637	12.0385	12.0387	21-22p	Cyprus pound	0.83-0.84
Paris	3.1248-3.1348	3.1333	3.1338	21-22p	Dutch guilder	2.20-2.21
Amsterdam	255.48-257.78	256.10	257.78	85-144p	Ghana cedi	250.75-252.75
Stockholm	231.77-232.58	232.56	232.58	1-10p	Hong Kong dollar	14.7327-14.7327
Oslo	11.6261-11.6816	11.6723	11.6816	8-9p	Indian rupee	15.515-15.515
Madrid	10.9212-11.0262	11.0269	11.0278	1-1p	Iraqi dinar	0.5035-0.5175
London	832.75-234.71	233.70	234.01	1-1p	Japanese yen	4.8417-4.8428
Lyons	2.5001-2.5833	2.5501	2.5501	1-1p	Malaysian ringgit	2.8518-2.8577
					New Zealand dollar	2.8518-2.8577
					Saudi Arabia riyal	7.090-7.090
					South African rand	3.7500-3.7500
					S Africa rand (fyn)	4.567-4.567
					S Africa rand (com)	4.0211-4.0228
					Sri Lanka rupee	8.9125-8.9255
					1 local Rand	

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[illegible]

14	92.25	1707	Jun 88	178.80	178.4
90	91.99	856	Sep 88	NT	
72	91.78				

[illegible]

	Open	Close	(/kg live)
107.55 Apr	88.3	88.3	GB (m)
107.55 Jun	88.3	88.3	

SOUTH AFRICA		NEW ZEALAND		AUS. CATTLE CONTRACT		AUS. CATTLE CONTRACT	
88.5	Apr 132.0-30.0	Dec 132.0-31.0	Apr	unq.	unq.	Eng/Wal (+/-)	96.78 195.63 108.80
89.6	Jun 128.7-28.0	Feb 133.0-33.5	Jun	unq.	unq.	Scotland (%)	-2.94 -14.50 -2.10
90.2	Aug 127.4-27.3	Apr 138.5-34.5	Aug	unq.	unq.	Scotland (p)	n/a -58.5 -12.1
276	Oct 129.0-29.3	Vol 286	Vol	Play 3	Cattle-0	Scotland (+/-)	n/a 19.29 114.17

* Estimates

[illegible]

INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

Civil Servants in the cold

Civil Servants are discovering that they are being denied their pension freedoms when they quit government service. They are not able to exercise their right to choose a new pension when they leave the Civil Service like any other job changer under existing legislation.

As the Government ushers in changes intended to give everyone much more choice about financial planning for retirement the Civil Servants find themselves excluded from the right to go to an insurance company to buy a "private" plan with their pension rights when they leave.

These Section 32 buy-out plans allow employees who are leaving an occupational pension scheme to buy an annuity from an insurance company with the transfer value of their company scheme.

Section 32 plans are generally a much more attractive option than having contributions to an occupational scheme frozen after the employee ends his link with the old employer.

But to set up one of these schemes, also known as buy-out bonds, employees must get the consent of the trustees of the occupational scheme. The trustees must sign the

insurance company's proposal and become a party named in the policy. This is because it is the company pension scheme that is paying the premium to purchase the bond.

But the Civil Service pension fund, the Principal Civil Servants Scheme, does not have any trustees — and it seems that there is no one who is empowered to act as a trustee and sign the papers.

The scheme does not have any trustees because it is run by the Treasury from its sub-

Treasury denies any problem

perannuation department in Basingstoke, Hampshire. There is no fund as such — no pot of money that needs investing and managing — as the scheme works on a pay-as-you-go basis.

The Treasury denies there is any special problem with Section 32 buy-outs for Civil Servants. "There are managers of the scheme and they have similar powers to those of trustees," said a Treasury spokesman.

But, in fact, insurance companies that are approached by Civil Servants wanting a section 32 buy-out are finding

that managers are reluctant to take on the formal powers of trustees and applications are hitting a log-jam.

There are 600,000 Civil Servants and about 5 per cent leave their jobs every year — so roughly 30,000 Civil Servants a year should be eligible to choose a Section 32 buy-out policy.

Colin Steward, secretary to the parliamentary committee of the National Association of Pension Funds, says his association intends to raise the matter soon with the Inland Revenue.

He said: "It is not clear why the managers are taking this view or what the Treasury position is. But we believe there is a problem for Civil Servants wanting to switch jobs and protect their retirement benefits through a Section 32 buy-out."

"We want to know what is going on."

The Norwich Union insurance company also confirms that there is a problem for Civil Servants in setting up buy-out plans and it is also seeking clarification.

Alistair Neill, of Scottish Widows, says: "This is a typical example of government incompetence. One bit of the Government doesn't

know what another is doing. The DHSS says people should be able to do something, but the Civil Service says it does not apply to them."

The Institution of Professional Civil Servants (IPCS), which represents scientists, engineers and other specialists, is implacably against civil servants leaving their pension scheme to opt for a personal pension or to take Section 32 buy-outs, even though it is not a funded scheme subject to the pres-

Pay downgraded for contributions

ures of meeting pension payments from continuing contributions.

When the docks at Devonport were nationalized the insurance companies "descended like sharks," says Charles Harvey, a spokesman for the IPCS.

"They were trying to persuade them all to take Section 32 buy-outs rather than leave their pension entitlements with the Civil Service," said Mr Harvey. Although Civil Servants do not have a pension contribution deduction from their wages, their pay scales are downgraded to take account of this. So Civil

Servant representatives consider they are "sacrificing" about 8 per cent of their gross pay for their pensions.

This is not the first time there have been problems with Section 32 schemes and for Civil Servants in particular. They have also been victims of the inflation-proofing protection built into their occupational schemes.

Benefits have had to rise in line with increases in average earnings. This is marvellous if they stay in the scheme to retirement but not so good if they want a buy-out.

It has been a rule with Civil Service pensions that the protection built into the scheme should also apply if it is transferred to a Section 32 plan. Insurance companies were unhappy about committing themselves to this because the cost could be prohibitive. Recently, however, new terms have been negotiated so that transferred benefits can be revalued at fixed rates.

This has opened the gates on Section 32 schemes for Civil Servants but, having come this far, it seems that they now face a further barrier.

Vivien Goldsmith and Maria Scott

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Millions for young buyers5

STRAIGHT TALK FROM THE EXPERTS

Now everybody has had their say, the world's major Unit Trust organisation speaks out.

The time has come to set the record straight. Because buried beneath the tons of newsprint, the endless hours of TV and radio comment and the weight of supposedly informed opinion, are several vital facts about savings and investment.

FACT Nobody can consistently predict short-term stockmarket movements.

Nobody predicted the severe falls in October. And nobody can guarantee to predict what is going to happen to markets over the next few months. Not even Fidelity, with all the resources of one of the world's largest unit trust organisations.

So, does the impossibility of predicting the short term mean you should be out of the market right now, locking all your money away in a building society?

No. Because we believe that the key to investment success is ignoring short-term worries, getting it right for the long term and choosing stocks which will prosper in spite of short-term market trends.

FACT Unit trust investment is still one of the most profitable ways to make money.

Maybe not today. Maybe not tomorrow. But, over the long term, you can still make substantial returns. And plenty of people will.

Just look at the record. Look at the growth unit trusts offer.

Despite the falls in October. You can see that even an average-performing unit trust produced returns substantially above the rate of inflation.

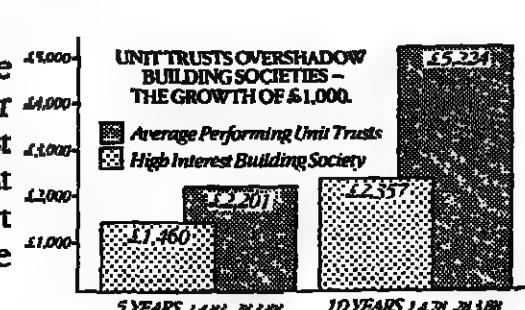
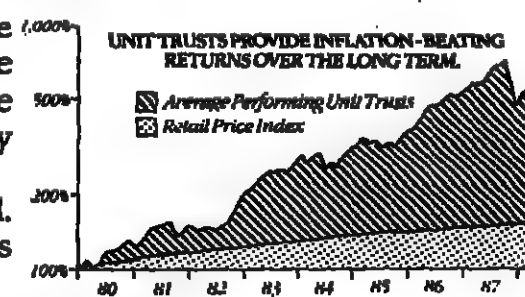
FACT You could have built more money in a unit trust than in a building society.

And you still can. Of course, we would be the first to tell you that your building society is the safest place for your money and that you should always have a part of your savings readily available in your building society.

But if you can afford to invest some of it, then the chart shows how much more a unit trust could make you. Even after the falls in October.

FACT International diversification is still a key to a successful investment strategy.

Just as you should diversify your total assets between 'safe' savings and long-term investments, so you should also look to global diversification of your investments.



Keeping costs down: Ian Lindsay with his S&P cards

S&P cuts to the cheapest credit

If you want to borrow money or buy on credit and you are a home-owner with a regular income or pension and you have a clean credit card record, one of the cheapest ways today is to use a Visa card issued by S&P or Prosper.

In the wake of last week's cut in base rate to 8 per cent — the lowest level for 10 years — S&P was the first, and so far only, credit card operator to reduce its annual percentage rate from 17.7 to 17.4. And as the big four banks have not yet reduced their personal loan rates, S&P's new rate, albeit for low-risk customers, is cheaper than many types of bank loan.

A plain old-fashioned authorized overdraft is still the cheapest way to borrow money — between 3 and 7 per cent — but only available for short periods and for a specific purpose.

Personal loans at the big four banks cost around 20 APR. Lloyds charges 19.5 APR, and customers wishing to buy, say, a car would be charged at this level. The cost for an equivalent loan at National Westminster is 20 APR, although a secured loan for home improvements would be 17.3 APR. Lloyds charges 15.3 APR for loans for major purchases or home improvements.

Barclays' rate is 19.7 APR for an unsecured fixed-rate consumer loan with the promise that the money may be available within 24 hours. Midland's personal loans vary from 19.7 to 21.7 APR, depending on the amount borrowed.

But the charges for the financially unsteady to avoid are those levied by in-store cards. The 10 million retail cards now in use represent 30 per cent of the market in credit

and charge cards and the sector received a sharp boost when Marks & Spencer introduced its own card in 1985. Their interest rates on an annualized basis ran from 19.5 per cent at John Lewis Partnership to 34.4 per cent at Sears and Comet. Meanwhile, the Access and Visa credit card rate is about 23.1 per cent.

Boots the Chemist was also charging 34.4 APR but earlier this week it withdrew the card from its 1,000 shops after three years because too few customers were using it. It could not compete with Access and Visa, which are also accepted by the chain, and many of its lines were too low-priced for customers to bother using a card. Boots will instead accept American Express cards in some shops.

None of these retail or credit card groups responded last week by lowering rates after the bank rate fell. When asked why, they said they were still considering a move. Their delay in reducing rates will undoubtedly add fuel to complaints by consumer watchdogs such as the National Consumer Council and the Consumers' Association that credit card interest rates are uncompetitive and too high and do not move downwards fast enough.

S&P has 15,000 card holders at the moment. "It is growing by 1,000 to 2,000 a month. We would have thought that more people would have rushed for a lower interest rate," says Ian Lindsay, S&P's banking director. Surprisingly, while two-thirds of credit card holders normally take credit, at S&P, where people have presumably gone to chase the lower interest rates, only about half are doing so.

Rosemary Unsworth
Retail Affairs Correspondent

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FAMILY MONEY/2

Investors still mopping up after disaster day

Six months after Black Monday, unit trust investors have, a long way to go before seeing the value of their investments reach anything like the levels they were just before the crash.

There has been a decline of 26.8 per cent in the average value of units since Friday, October 16, the day the South of England mopped up after the hurricane.

In the six months to October 16 prices climbed by an average of 12.9 per cent and unit trusts were attracting record levels of investment. But since then the gains have been wiped out, and the average loss is 13.42 per cent in the year to this week.

Sadly, the many small and inexperienced investors who went into trusts before October, encouraged by flash profits from privatization issues, will have had their fingers so badly burned that they will not be back for a long time.

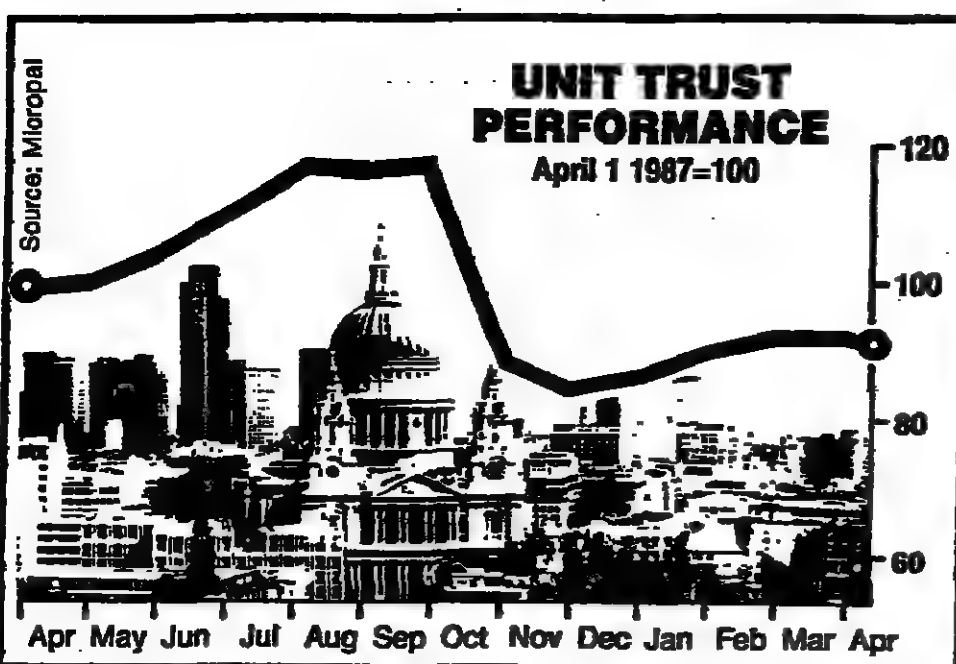
Hopes that the October disaster would not turn into a real bear market have proved unfounded. The average loss in the six months since October 20 is nearly 25 per cent and investors are understandably frightened of making any new moves.

David Glasgow, managing director of Kleinwort Bank, which runs the Kleinwort Barrington stable of trusts, says: "We have seen a great reluctance by investors to do anything."

The pessimistic mood is deep-rooted, says Mr Glasgow, who did not expect it to last so long after the crash. Despite the disastrous showing by unit trusts, the Unit Trust Association reports that the number of unit trust accounts and the number of individual holders has increased slightly during the past year. This indicates that the majority of investors have decided to stay in for the ride, or switch funds, no matter how bumpy the ride, rather than taking a loss.

Even though the overall performance figures have been dismal, it has been possible to make money in trusts since the crash. The trick was in finding the right fund.

Those astute enough to have moved into a defensive trust, investing in gilts, convertible or preference shares, high-yielding equities, or a mixture of these should have



done well. Opal Statistics' lists of best performers since October 16 and October 20 are composed almost exclusively of these trusts.

The exception is Commercial Union's Far Eastern Growth trust, which tops the league for the six months from October 20. It invests in Japan, which has bucked the trend in other world markets as well as other Far Eastern markets.

This fund was launched into the eye of the storm, on October 19, but withstood the chill to advance sharply from its low base. The gain in value, on an offer-to-bid basis was 22 per cent in the six months from October 20.

Grofund Gilt trust also topped the performance league for the six months from just before the crash. John Rockett, head of UK investment at Grofund Managers, says the fund has been invested heavily in long-dated gilts with high coupons, although there has been a move to shorter dates recently. He believes the market in 10-year to 13-year gilts will be strong in the next few months.

Figures for the worst-performing trust reflect the walloping taken by the Australian market on October 19 and the months following. Target Australian, a star performer at one stage last year, is showing a loss of more than 80 per cent since the day after the crash.

What should investors do now? Fund managers and advisers are nervous.

"We are still fairly pessimistic about markets in general," says David Rosier, deputy chairman of Mercury Rowan Mullens, the private client portfolio management division of Mercury Asset Management.

"We are still very worried about underlying problems in the United States and the effect the weak dollar and strong pound are having on the profit of UK companies."

Uncertainty is likely to persist until the US election is out of the way.

Mr Rosier adds: "If you are prepared to ride it out you should probably stay in, but if there is a possibility you will need the money you have

invested, it might be advisable to sell into the rally we have been seeing."

Kean Scager, of Whitechurch Securities, says that this year he is subscribing to the "sell in May and go away" adage. His advice to people with spare cash who might be thinking of investing in unit trusts is: "Don't."

With conditions in the equity markets still volatile and likely to remain so for the next few months, the attractions of income-based unit trusts, using high-yielding equities, convertibles, preference shares or gilts will remain strong.

A number of new trusts investing in these have been launched in recent months and more will come. At Grofund Mr Rockett says his



David Glasgow: "pessimism"



Kean Scager: "Don't invest"

company intends soon to launch one that will switch among all four.

The drop in the value of unit trust funds since the crash has had another unpleasant consequence for investors. When the value of funds under management falls, so too does the fee income flowing to the fund managers. Charges, therefore, are on the way up.

Fidelity and Touche Ross have raised the annual management charges on some of their trusts to 1.5 per cent, and this could very well set a new benchmark for the industry.

However, some of the blame for rising charges can be laid at the door of the Financial Services Act.

Maria Scott

Decide how your pet will enjoy your holiday

With the holiday season in sight it is foolish to wait until you dust down the suitcases before making plans for your domestic pets.

Like hotels, the best kennels and catteries become booked up early. A request for accommodation made in mid-summer is likely to be met with a curt refusal.

Do not expect to pay less than £3.90 a day plus VAT for a small-sized dog to £4.30 a day plus VAT for one of German shepherd size if you live in an urban area. The equivalent prices in a country location are £2.50 to £3.75 plus VAT.

Boarding the family cat is expensive too - £3.75 a day plus VAT is an average charge, although sometimes a friendly cat breeder will take in a few privileged boarders for around £2 per day, including VAT.

Some kennels and catteries will be willing to take your children's small caged pets, such as rabbits and guinea pigs too, for 50p to 75p a day.

If you plan a lengthy trip, it is worth inquiring whether there is a reduction for long-stay boarders, or for numbers if you intend to book in several pets.

You will not be able to take your dog or cat over the threshold of a reputable boarding establishment without producing evidence that their jabs against killer diseases are up to date.

According to the British Veterinary Association, the fees charged by veterinary practices vary - partly depending on the particular treatment required and partly on the overheads and level of services offered.

For dog and cat vaccinations the fee can vary from £13 to £30 depending on the number of diseases covered and the number of consultations required to complete the course. It is best to ask the boarding establishment at the time of booking exactly what protection is required.

Many establishments encourage clients to take out sickness and accident insurance for their pet during their stay. But an increasing number of pet owners have insurance anyway, either through one of several canine welfare organizations, such as the National Dog Owners' Association, which includes insurance as a benefit of membership.



Cat care: Sarah Robinson with inmates at the Loggerheads cattery in Stratford, east London, where fees are £2.30 a day

bership at £16 per year, or one of the specialist pet insurance companies such as Petplan, which offers a whole range of policies for cats and dogs.

Vets suggest that you should insist on seeing where the pet will be accommodated when you visit the boarding establishment. Do not just hand it in at reception on trust. Expect to be asked where you can be contacted on holiday, the name of your usual vet, and what your pet eats.

Finally, if the thought of parting from your pet is just too hard to bear you may like to take advantage of a new scheme enabling you to exchange homes with other pet owners. Registering with Petshare Holidays costs £20. The agency matches your require-

ments with other families on the register and it is up to you whether you choose to exchange with owners of your own breed or variety or other types of pet throughout the country.

Details are available from Olive Dunn, Petshare Holidays, PO Box 236, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire.

Joan Palmer

British Veterinary Association, 7 Mansfield Street, London W1; National Canine Defence League, 1 Pratt Mews, London NW1 6AD; National Dog Owners' Association, 39 North Road, London N7 9DP; Pet Protect (Protect-A-Pet Ltd), 15 Knightsbridge Green, London SW1X 7QL; Pet Plan Ltd, 319-327 Chiswick High Road, London W4 4HH

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Take another look at Inheritance Tax

The Inheritance Tax rate change from March 15 is so fundamental that a fresh look at planning is vital. Having a single 40 per cent rate above £110,000 drastically cuts potential liabilities, particularly for larger estates.

For example, consider the case of a widow with a £200,000 house, investments worth £150,000 and other assets of £40,000, a total estate of £390,000. If she had made no gifts within the previous seven years, and if she had died before the Budget, the Inheritance Tax would be £138,000. This includes assets of £60,000 at the top 60 per cent rate.

After the Budget, there is a single 40 per cent rate, applying on the excess over £110,000. Thus, £112,000 would be payable, £26,000 less than the pre-Budget figure.

The position would be even more striking for assets of £390,000. The additional £50,000 would now attract 40 per cent compared with 60 per cent, a further saving of £10,000.

So at first sight, there is less need for Inheritance Tax planning. However, 40 per cent is still a substantial tax charge and is well worth saving. Furthermore, if any reliance can be placed on history, eventually the Government will change. In that event, vastly higher taxes on gifts and on death can be expected.

Gifts of more than the annual and other exemptions are classified as "potentially exempt transfers". These are subject to Inheritance Tax only if you die within seven years of making them. If you survive for at least three years, some reduction in the tax is obtained. However, the gifts are not completely in the clear until seven years have elapsed. The tax rate that applies is that ruling at your death.

This all goes to emphasize the importance of acting in good time, so as to reduce any adverse effects on your estate from a change of Government or your premature death.

Instead of reducing your estate by outright gifts, you may prefer settlements, especially to children or grandchildren. Accumulation and maintenance settlements, under which the beneficiaries obtain the income as of right by the age of 25 are strongly recommended.

If any of your children is under 18 and receives income from the settlement, you will be taxed on this, but with a top rate of 40 per cent income tax, which is not nearly so penal as it was.

Small discretionary settlements are most beneficial and provide flexibility on the distribution of income and capital. Provided the amount that you settle is within your nil

All facets need to be re-examined

rate band of £110,000, no Inheritance Tax will be payable on setting up the trust. Otherwise, tax at 20 per cent would be payable.

It remains as important as ever to use up the £3,000 annual exemption and other reliefs, such as a marriage. Even if there were to be a change of Government, gifts within the exemptions should prove safe from further change.

With the radical changes, all facets of Inheritance Tax planning need re-examination. The wills of people who have died within the past two years can be rewritten by means of deeds of variation, for Inheritance Tax and Capital Gains Tax purposes. This can pro-

BRING IT WITH YOU BY ALL MEANS
—AS LONG AS YOU'VE PAID THE TAX



duce considerable tax savings.

All wills should be re-examined now to ensure that, provided the estate is adequate, at least the £110,000 nil rate band is left to people other than the surviving husband or wife. Otherwise, if it all goes to the survivor, it would normally be taxed on his or her death. Thus, at the present 40 per cent rate, up to £44,000 of extra tax would be payable.

Stronger case for planning than ever

If the old nil rate band of £90,000 has already been bequeathed to others, the increase from £90,000 to £110,000 would normally save an additional £8,000 — well worth the trouble. Alternatively, if it is preferred to make lifetime gifts, an additional £20,000 would be available for this purpose.

As a final point, there is an even stronger case than ever for considering Inheritance Tax planning as part of your overall tax strategy. The equation of Capital Gains Tax and income tax rates, the separate taxation of husband and wife from April 1990 and the removal of tax relief on new deeds of covenant and maintenance payments all point towards the benefit of having one overall tax plan.

For example, equalizing the estate between husband and wife may save Inheritance Tax. More important, from 1990 it will result in a division of investment income and capital gains, producing tax savings.

With the withdrawal of tax relief on new deeds of covenant, different ways must be found to put money into the hands of students and others. Capital gifts are an alternative, and so are income distributions from settlements.

Thus, following the Budget changes, not only Inheritance Tax planning but having a general tax plan are more important than ever.

Walter Sinclair

The author is a tax partner in 'kidsons, chartered accountants

Linksave livener

Girobank, the Post Office-based bank, is pepping up its services with a new range of high-interest accounts, a monthly savings scheme, an account that channels part of the interest to charity, and a pretty competitive mortgage rate.

The full range of new services will be available from early next month, but the card-based savings scheme was launched this week.

Linksave allows customers to draw up to £250 a day, 24 hours a day, from any of the 1,000 LINK through-the-wall card machines.

Customers can also get up to £50 at any Post Office. Overdrafts are not available. The interest rate is 4.5 per cent net up to £500, 5 per cent up to £5,000, and 5.75 per cent on sums of more than £2,000. This compares with Halifax Cardcash, which gives 4 per cent in two half-year payments on amounts up to £2,000 and 5.75 per cent on sums of more than £2,000.

Linksave customers can arrange for their salary to be

The card, launched this week, paid directly into the account and can have standing orders or direct debits to pay regular bills such as the mortgage, gas or telephone bills.

The card will also allow them to buy groceries and petrol via the experimental EFTPOS trial being run with Sainsbury's and BP.

The new accounts from Girobank will include a high-interest cheque account, a high-interest notice account and a savings scheme.

The mortgage rate for loans of £50,000 and above has been brought down from 9.9 per cent to 9.4 per cent (9.8 APR for endowment loans), and the rate for smaller loans has fallen from 10.2 per cent to 9.7 per cent (10.2 APR for endowment loans).

Low pay penalty

LETTERS

It is disappointing to note that in preparing his radical Budget, Mr Lawson apparently failed to address himself to an anomaly which needlessly penalizes some people at the lower end of the pay scale.

This anomaly results from the provisions of the Finance Act 1976, S.69 of which extended the taxation of fringe benefits enjoyed by higher-paid employees, defined in that Act as those in receipt of remuneration of £5,000 pa or more. Subsequent Acts adjusted this figure upwards to £8,500, at which level it has remained since 1979-80, with the result that many people with below-average earnings and who are generally recognized as low earners (e.g. ministers of religion) find themselves regarded as "higher-paid" for tax purposes and thus taxed on any modest perks which they may receive.

There can be no possible justification for this in the light of the Budget proposals — upward revision of the qualifying figure even to £10,000 would result in a negligible loss of revenue — and the Chancellor should act now to correct the situation. If he will not, then at least let the "higher-paid" fiction be dropped and the impost recognized as, effectively, a general one.

HERBERT G. KNIBB,
Grimma Hill,
Great Missenden,
Buckinghamshire.

Your thoughts are well received, but it has to be admitted that as things stand, Treasury ministers are not of a mind to raise the balance of £8,500 threshold. I think that it should be recognized that one option

which has been under active consideration by the Inland Revenue is whether the £8,500 threshold should be abolished so that everybody should be subject to the altogether more stringent rules relating to "higher-paid" employees. The only thing that seems to be deterring the authorities from this step is the mechanical process of organizing returns and digesting information.

Maybe we should leave things unsatisfactory as they may be.

Caught in pensions trap

The article "Mortgage relief trap" (February 13) was most interesting in my case, for two reasons. Firstly, my wife and I have opted for the wife's earnings election, and secondly, she has also just commenced a personal pension plan.

The first statement is adequately covered by your article, but the second might be of interest, in that the plan was commenced with a single premium from the past seven years up to and including April 1, 1988. The tax relief on this premium was calculated at 29 per cent on a not insubstantial amount.

My query and observation is therefore: As the taxman feels able to proportion tax relief on mortgages from a joint account and therefore joint income, would it not be perfectly reasonable to expect the tax relief on personal pension plans to be proportional also?

Readers' letters for publication are welcomed but *The Times* regrets it cannot give individual replies or advice. Published replies marked with a triangle-type symbol are by Bill Packer, tax partner at accountants Touche Ross, in association with *The Times*. However, no legal responsibility can be accepted for any advice or statements in these columns. Independent professional advice should always be sought.

It just so happens that 75 per cent of our joint earnings are mine, and therefore 75 per cent of my wife's single premium and regular earnings premium in future years would attract tax relief at 50 per cent. Surely the taxman cannot have his cake and eat it!

Maybe you consider my point of view to be a red herring, but it would be most interesting to learn your views, and maybe it is just one area where we middle income earners might just have a break in our favour for once. R. JONES, Heathfield, Brighton, Brighton, Oxfordshire OX9 5NP.

Whatever are the rights and wrongs of this, the Inland Revenue has decided to recognize the proposition that mortgage payments may be a joint liability of husband and wife or of unmarried couples. On the other hand, so far as pension payments are concerned, it has to be accepted that the Revenue is only going to attribute these to the payers of the contributions, on the footing that they, and only they, will be the immediate beneficiaries.

Table of confusion

Your article "A new twist to Investments" of March 26 made a number of useful points. However, can I take you to task on the use of the table?

There are 26 offshore gilt funds and you selected only the top six and bottom six. This was not made clear. Readers might therefore assume that a fund in the middle area of your list was about average. In fact it was either one of the last of the best, or amongst the first of the worst.

The heading "Total net return %" may have misled many readers.

It is now widely accepted that the return on investments of this type should compare the amount received on sale with the original cost. In fact, the statistics used compare the current purchase (offer) price plus dividends over the last year with the purchase price one year ago.

If the table had been prepared on the more realistic basis, the picture would have been rather different with some returns significantly lower and a change in the ranking order.

It is vital for potential investors in gilt funds to appreciate that some funds have initial charges and roundings which amount to more than 5.5% of the purchase cost. A much lower charge structure is available from a few leading groups. For example the spread is less than 1.5% for the Lloyd's Trust Gift Fund, which is consistently among the top funds on cost-to-proceeds performance.

DAVID LEVITT,
Director,
Lloyds Bank (Channel Islands),
Waterloo House,
Don Street,
St Helier,
Jersey.

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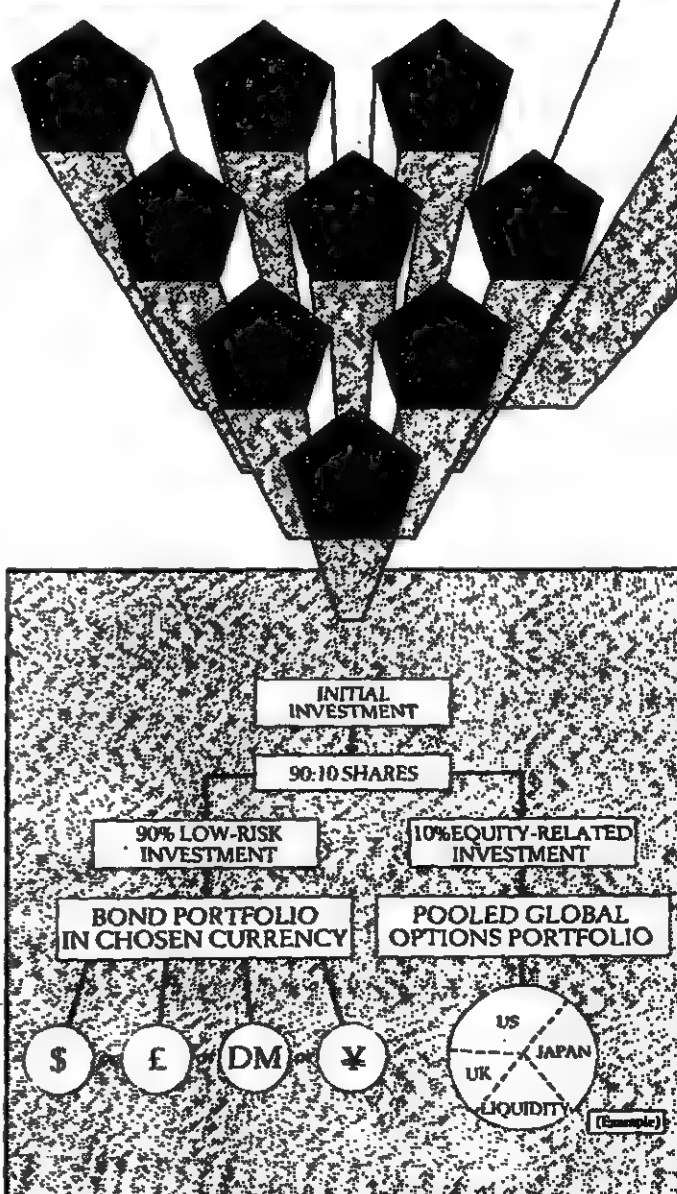
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The other holiday home

A growing number of people are buying holiday property "bonds" or "shares". They are considered alternatives to timesharing — each offering the enticing prospect of "free" holidays for life — but bond or share schemes are very different from timesharing.

With timeshare you are buying a particular property for a specific week every year. This is not the case with bond or share schemes. With share schemes you invest in the company as a whole. With bond schemes you take out a whole life assurance policy, and instead of getting dividends from your "investment" you get points to use on the company's holiday accommodation.

Two companies operate share and bond schemes, both of them registered outside Britain. Each uses the word investment in its sale literature, but do these companies offer a good place for your money? A lot depends on what you are comparing the schemes with.

The share system is operated by the Swiss-based Hapimag Holiday Property Club, a non-profit-making club started in 1963. To join you must buy club shares, and the money is used to build or buy holiday accommodation throughout Europe.

But these are not shares in the normal sense of the word. Like shareholders in other companies, members can attend meetings and vote on policies, but instead of dividends they get holiday points according to the number of club shares they hold — not according to the amount of money put in, because share prices change. Club shares cannot be sold during the first four years.

Higher charges for timeshare owners

Compared with timesharing, Hapimag offers a good deal. One club share, at present 4,900 Swiss francs or about £2,130, provides enough points to get a week in Tenerife in early September or at a Scottish castle at most times of the year. Few timeshare weeks come as cheap, even in low season.

There are annual charges, at present £68 per club share, to maintain the properties, but timeshare owners tend to have



Brittany in bloom: Manoir de Hilguy, the Holiday Property Bond company's French chateau mansion near Quimper

even higher maintenance charges.

On a straight investment comparison, Hapimag has not done too badly either. The club share price has respectably increased from £100 in 1963 to £2,130 in 1988, similar to the performance of many unit trust funds during that period. Into that calculation must also come the value of free holiday accommodation during the past 25 years.

Holiday Property Bond, started in 1963, is a completely different concept. It is not a non-profit-making membership club, but is owned by the Isle of Man Assurance Company. The UK agent is the Villa Owners Club, a FIMBRA member.

Basically, this is a life-covered investment bond where investors get holiday accommodation instead of a money yield.

The investments are split between new holiday property developments (40 per cent) and fixed-interest government securities (60 per cent) secured by an Isle of Man offshoot of the London merchant bankers Singer & Friedlander.

You can withdraw up to 5 per cent of the initial premium in any one year without affecting your holiday entitlement. And any bondholder can cash it in after two years

without penalties.

If the bondholder dies, his heirs will get its current value plus additional benefits, depending on his age at death. The benefits vary from an extra 160 per cent if the bondholder dies under the age of 34 to 0.5 per cent if he is

Savings must be taken into account

over 75. With Hapimag, however, the heirs directly inherit the club shares.

On a strict timeshare comparison, HPB offers a reasonable deal. Points awarded usually allow holiday accommodation at a lower initial cost than with timeshare. There are no maintenance charges as such but bondholders can choose between being a "gold bondholder", who pays no utility charges such as electricity but gets fewer points, and a "silver bondholder", who pays the charges but gets more points.

But as an investment HPB does not seem such a good deal. If you had invested £1,000 three years ago with HPB it would be worth only £870 if cashed now — not a good return by anyone's standards. For example, if you take the average UK growth trust fund performance, £1,000 invested three years

ago, with net income reinvested, would be worth £1,840.60, even after the October crash.

You must, however, take into account any savings you might have made in holidays during that period. For example, two weeks in a two-bedroom flat in Tenerife in August would cost 4,060 points, or £4,060. On top you have to pay for flights, which at even at cheap rates would cost about £790 for two adults and two children.

A holiday for the same family in a two-bedroom flat in Tenerife, organized with inclusive flights by Thomas Cook, would cost you £1,324 — or about £500 more than the outlay for the holiday bondholder.

Eveline Hunter

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Millions for young buyers

Building societies shied away from 100 per cent mortgages after they brought poor payment records, but now that funds are plentiful and interest rates are tumbling they are a little less nervous about lending the full valuation price of the property.

The National & Provincial Building Society has just set aside £100 million for 100 per cent mortgages. It is a timely move for the young single buyers who want to club together for multiple tax relief before August 1 when it disappears.

Borrowers in the South-East can borrow up to £80,000. The limit elsewhere in the country is £60,000.

The society is building some protection for itself into these more risky loans by imposing a higher interest rate — one percentage point more than normal.

At the same time Mortgage Express, a subsidiary of the TSB, is joining a number of lenders offering special deals for unmarried couples wanting to beat the August 1 deadline for multiple tax relief.

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LEGAL & FINANCIAL

Drums along the M25

This week, Derek Lewis will join the band of missionaries taking the legal gospel according to the City of London to the provincial outposts, writes Edward Fennell. But will the natives swallow it? Or him?



Our thoughts and best wishes go out today to Derek Lewis, a partner with Theodore Goddard, who will soon be leaving us. With characteristic courage, Derek is leading an idealistic team of young solicitors to colonize a remote and lawless region and to bring the benefit of civilization to the natives.

Others may sit secure in the City and sup in the partners' dining-rooms. But they would do well to think next Thursday of Derek Lewis whose mission takes him far beyond the City Road, to scale Crouch Hill, traverse Hadley Green and even venture across the M25 to land, God willing, in a place which goes by the name of St Albans. There he will endeavour to establish an outpost of decency and plain dealing and to nurture amongst the native Albanese a high regard for doing business in the City way.

Already, I understand, some contacts have been made with the local headmen and, assuming a fair wind, by lunchtime on Thursday Mr Lewis will be addressing a group of notables in the Soppwell House Hotel. Although an interpreter will be on hand to help, I am reliably assured that Mr Lewis has been taking lessons in the Hertfordshire dialect and is confident that his message will be understood.

But what is it that inspires such high endeavour? After all, when every solicitor seems to be able to coin it within shouting distance of London Wall, why bother to trek beyond the most distant outreach of even the Northern Line?

Well, as you might imagine, in the best traditions of British colonialism Theodore Goddard is motivated by a keen sense of philanthropy.

"We were approached by a number of leading accountants who were concerned about the quality of legal advice available to their clients in the St Albans area," explained William Rogers, a leading partner in the firm. "We don't intend to take away the bread and butter from local solicitors but we do want the local business community to know that we are there to offer a high quality City service if they want it."

Theodore Goddard is not the only City

firm venturing into the unmapped regions to establish a satellite office. A month ago, pioneers from Turner Kenneth Brown took what might be regarded as the even bolder step of opening an office in Abbots Walk, Reading. The senior partner, David Wightman, commented: "We are establishing a 'City on the doorstep' service for clients based in the area and others who feel the need for the type of back-up and connections that are more readily available from the City firm of lawyers."

What is happening, of course, is an attempt by some of the more energetic City firms to move in on the thriving businesses which are developing in the hothouse environment of the South East, motorway network. All right, it might not be quite as exciting as setting up in Tokyo or Beijing, but why travel half way around the world when you can do interesting new business down the road?

Reading, of course, is the booming centre of the M4 silicon corridor, while St Albans has done well out of the M25. Other towns in similar positions (Guildford, for example) are likely to be targeted for the same treatment. In the fight to secure as clients the enterprising companies which characterize these areas, the fact that you are "on the doorstep" could be a notable advantage.

The phenomenon is not, however, confined to London. On May 2, Alexander Tatham, the major Manchester practice, will be opening its first satellite office in Warrington. Again the motorway system is an important feature. Squeezed between the M6 and the M62, Warrington is another growth area with new businesses doing well. Rather than wait for the potential new clients to find their way through to the centre of Manchester, Alexander Tatham has taken the initiative and gone to them.

Getting close to the client is of course just one part of a marketing strategy. But it can also be remarkably effective because it represents in concrete terms the fact that you are open for business to the growing local company. The idea of dealing with a prestigious lawyer can still be a bit daunting to some small businessmen, so being part of the local

scene, a technique refined by the bigger accountants, eases the way in.

Strangely enough, though, Theodore Goddard and Alexander Tatham both reckon that it is only possible for them to have made these moves by the virtue of modern communications. The idea of satellite offices is sometimes sneered at because they may end up as mere "one man and a dog" operations. But as John Boardman of Alexander Tatham explained, his Warrington office will be on a linked telephone line with Manchester and the Warrington partners will have the same access to the computer system, and with the aid of Fax machines there will be little noticeable difference between the services available in the two offices. In terms of status there will certainly be no distinction.

What is intriguing is the way rival selling points are made. Turner Kenneth Brown claims to bring the City to Your Doorstep. Howes Percival, the Northampton-based practice with a string of offices across the East Midlands, East Anglia and the South, reckons it is already a "City" firm in the country.

So before too long the big provincial firms and the City firms with their satellites will be locked in combat on every High Street and, frankly, it is hard to predict the outcome because the days are over when the provincial firms were prepared to play the deferential country cousin. Howes Percival, for example, with 54 solicitors and a present total of six offices, is going through a big expansion process. A new office is due outside Ipswich by the end of May and there should also be one in the City of London by the end of the year. Senior Partner Michael Percival is clearly unwilling to play second fiddle to anyone. But to get into the really big league firms like his need to grow.

Already, of course, there has been much coverage of the alternative model, best represented by the M5 Group, which has been operating now for more than 11 years. With its emphasis on being a group of five independent firms it reckons that it has come up with the formula which offers the best of both worlds, pooling resources on some things but retaining the separate identity of each practice.

With no London link, however, it lacks the vital ingredient which some might think vital for the top honours.

The upshot of all these developments is that there are now on display several different models of growth. Perhaps they will all prove successful, but somehow I doubt it. In the great shake-up which must come soon, some models will prove more resilient than others.

So as Derek Lewis leads his expedition this week into the Hertfordshire heartland there will be a lot of interest in his endeavours. He may go as a missionary. But will he return as a Conquistador?

Regina v Small (Michael)
Before Lord Justice Russell, Mr Justice Leonard and Mr Justice Pill

[Judgment April 15]

Assumptions a judge was entitled to make under section 2 of the Drug Trafficking Offences Act 1986 were referred to by the Court of Appeal when refusing an application for leave to appeal against an order confiscating £10,000.

Michael John Small, aged 27, described as a traveller who dealt in the black economy, applied unsuccessfully for leave to appeal against the order, made by Judge Neville at Exeter Crown Court in December.

The applicant had pleaded guilty last October to possession of cannabis and was convicted of possessing cannabis with intent to supply. Sentence was postponed for service of notices under the 1986 Act and for a social inquiry report.

Regina v North East Thames Regional Health Authority, Ex parte de Groot
Before Mr Justice Hodgson

[Judgment April 14]

There was a distinction between the nomination and appointment of members to a district health authority; existing members should not have the expectation of reappointment for that would fetter the discretion of the regional health authority in its appointment of members.

Mr Justice Hodgson so held in the Queen's Bench Division when dismissing the application of Lucy de Groot to quash the decision of the North East Thames Regional Health Authority on July 20, 1987 not to reappoint her to the position of economic development officer for the City and Hackney Health Authority.

Mr John Meville Williams, QC and Mr Tim Kerr for the applicant; Mr Charles Flint for the regional health authority.

MR JUSTICE HODGSON said that the applicant was appointed on July 18, 1984 to political views and, his Lordship said, there should always be complete candour and care in completing Form 86A and in the evidence supporting it. The error here was inadvertent and was not deliberate but in-advertence should have been avoided.

Leave to move had been granted ex parte and, his Lordship said, there should always be complete candour and care in completing Form 86A and in the evidence supporting it. The error here was inadvertent and was not deliberate but in-advertence should have been avoided.

MR JUSTICE McCOWAN said that the 1975 Act was not restricted to conservation purposes. It would have been very easy for Parliament to say that the purpose of section 26 was conservation if it had so intended. It had not. The only express reference to conservation was in section 26(5).

It was therefore open to a water authority to limit the number of licences it granted for the purposes of good management.

The purpose of the order was

Statutory drug case assumptions

expensive car equipped with a telephone in the applicant's possession and the sums of money that the applicant must have been spending weekly.

The applicant who dealt in the black economy. He had a record of dishonesty.

Grounds of appeal settled by counsel stated that the applicant did not have a fair hearing. The submission had not been developed. Their Lordships were of the view that the judge did give a fair and judicial hearing to the applicant.

Also submitted was that the judge was wrong to conclude that the applicant benefited from drug trafficking and was not justified in concluding that the applicant had had £10,000 worth of assets.

The grounds of appeal did not appear fully to bear in mind the assumptions which the court was entitled to make under section 2 of the 1986 Act.

Having regard to the assumptions which the Act entitled the judge to make he was, in their Lordships' view, justified in holding (i) that the applicant benefited from drug trafficking, and (ii) that the value of the proceeds of drug trafficking were £10,000.

The judge, having heard the applicant give evidence, formed the view that he was an untruthful witness who had kept no records. He had spent large sums of money in the recent past.

In most cases it was to be expected that there would be a fuller analysis of financial affairs and the amounts which might be realized from them. In the present case the applicant's attitude made that impossible.

Their Lordships could not accept the submission that a fine would be more appropriate when the difficulties were created by the applicant himself. The order was proper. The application was refused.

Nomination and appointment distinguished

applicant's political views and/or activities was disturbing. Had it been persisted in it would have been hotly contested. There had not been there ever been any shred of evidence to support that.

The applicant had deposed that a serious triable issue arose because she had been unjustly or unlawfully singled out for non-reappointment because of her political views and because she worked for a trade union support unit. That was untrue for although the applicant had done so she had not been working there for at least two years.

Leave to move had been granted ex parte and, his Lordship said, there should always be complete candour and care in completing Form 86A and in the evidence supporting it. The error here was inadvertent and was not deliberate but in-advertence should have been avoided.

Appointments to the district health authority by a regional health authority were governed by Schedule 5 to the National Health Service Act 1977 and the National Health Service (Regional and District Health Authorities, Membership and Procedure) Regulations (SI 1983 No 315).

A district health authority consisted of a chairman appointed by the Secretary of State for Social Services and a specified number of members nominated by representative bodies within the medical profession and federations of concerned worker organizations. Schedule 5 to the National Health Service Act 1977 made the requirement by the regional health authority to consult a very large field.

The applicant was a member of the south east region of the Trades Union Congress who refused to put forward any other

name than the applicant's for reappointment. They insisted that it was their practice to put forward only one name, as here, where it wished the existing incumbent to be reappointed.

Their desire to "renominate them unopposed" showed a lack of understanding of the process and their failure to understand the distinction between nomination and appointment. The reliance placed by the south east region of the TUC on the appointed persons' expectations was not justified for it would fetter the regional health authority's discretion in making appointments from nominations to the district health authority. Acceptance of the applicant's submission would give security of tenure to those appointed.

Solicitors: Seifert Sedley Williams; Beachcroft.

Heave or Haaf Net Licences - Solway Firth Order 1986.

Mr Thomas Hegarty for the applicant; Mr Simon Newton for the water authority.

MR JUSTICE McCOWAN said that the 1975 Act was not restricted to conservation purposes. It would have been very easy for Parliament to say that the purpose of section 26 was conservation if it had so intended. It had not. The only express reference to conservation was in section 26(5).

It was therefore open to a water authority to limit the number of licences it granted for the purposes of good management.

The purpose of the order was

to prevent illegal fishing. There was bound to be a limitation of the number of licences granted and some selectivity would be necessary.

Section 26(1)(b) could not be read separately from 26(1)(a). They were linked by the word "and". As a result it was clear that Parliament had envisaged that respectable people would be disappointed in their applications for a licence. That was the route Parliament had chosen for controlling numbers.

As the reason for the order was valid there was nothing wrong at all in there being some selectivity in the grant of licences.

Solicitors: Bendle Doods & Co, Carlisle; Solicitor, MAFF; Mr W. H. Crackle, Warrington.

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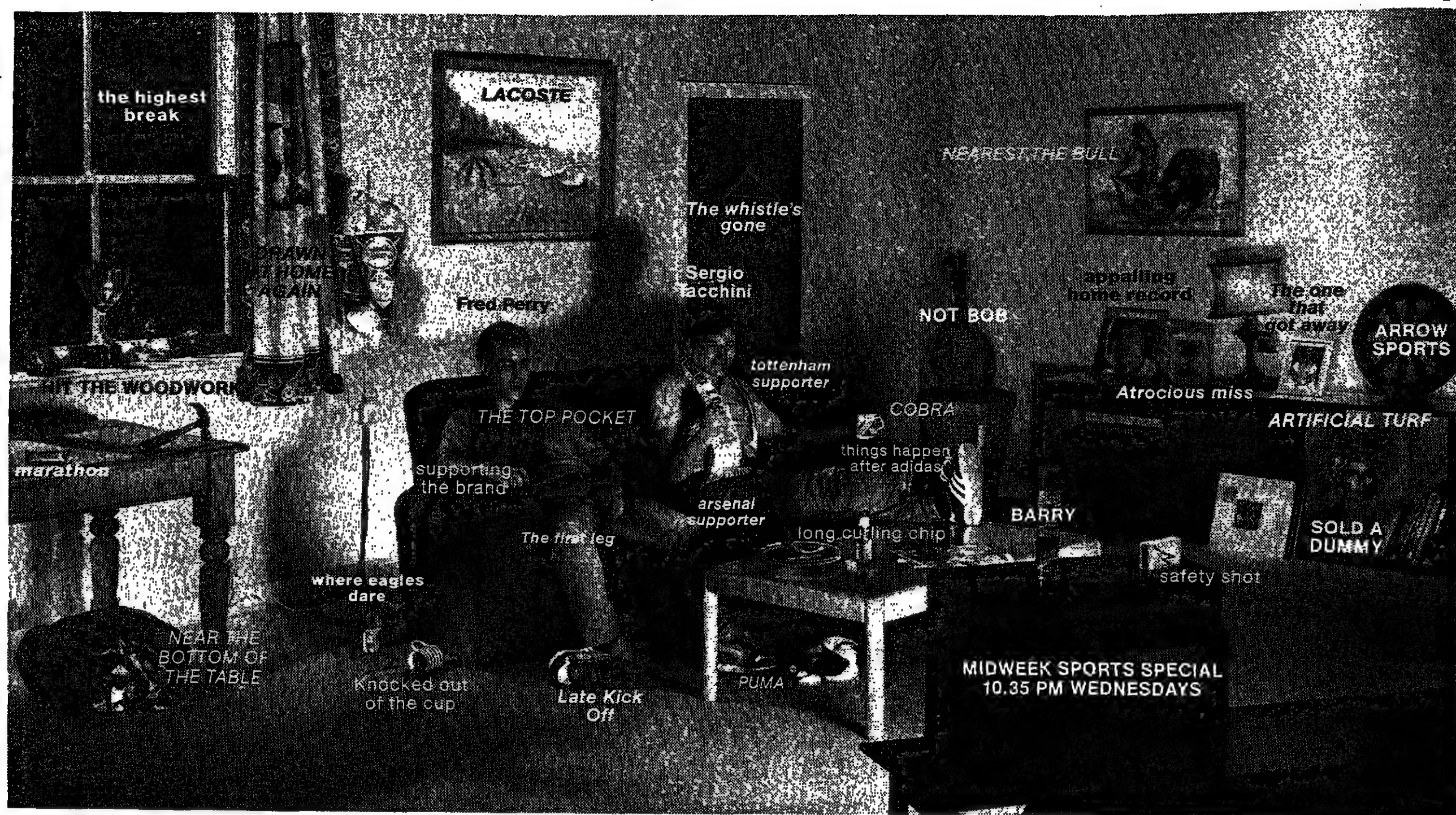
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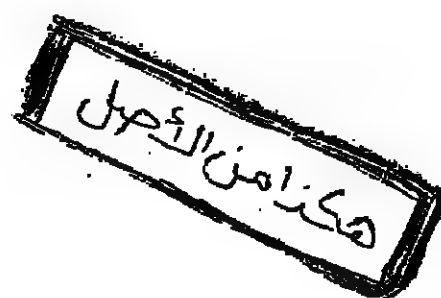
Although there is a lot of sport on TV, the only people watching it then are those that don't play it.

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Why an injection of new talent is needed if the London Marathon is to remain more than just a grandiose fun-run

Jones leads the old shoe shuffle

By Pat Butcher
Athletics Correspondent

Comparing Hugh Jones to an old shoe is neither insulting nor inappropriate for a marathon runner, especially when one remembers that Jack Holden — who should have known better — chose to run the 1948 Olympic marathon in new shoes and had to drop out with blistered feet when holding a substantial lead.

Jones has comfortably been Britain's most consistent marathon runner since his emergence in 1981 without quite achieving the heights of Charlie Spedding's Olympic bronze medal or his namesake Steve Jones's last time.

But Hugh Jones, fifth in the world championship last summer, has not been beaten by a Briton in London, and with the first two home runners, men and women, getting automatic selection for this year's Olympic Games in Seoul, he will be the

hardest man to beat. Spedding, who did the trick at the last Olympics, looks the other likeliest contender.

The interest in selection for a major championship, which now happens three years out of four, with European and world championships as well as Olympics, has done much to keep tomorrow's race afloat as an elite event.

For, even with Ingrid Kristiansen looking more likely to break 2 hours 20 minutes than she has ever done, the hype surrounding that attempt (again) is wearing thin, and, with little or no realistic competition, she should win, literally by several streets. The men's race also looks much the same as it did last year.

There will be those who argue that the Oxford-Cambridge Boat Race looks the same each year. But if the marathon is going to remain something more than a grandiose fun-run (and there is nothing wrong with that), then the organizers need

Weather outlook

With an Atlantic depression bringing to an end the recent dry, cool spell runners in the London Marathon could face humidity problems tomorrow morning. "Warm and sticky, with the prospect of some showery rain later in the race," was the forecast from the London Weather Centre, although competitors should start in dry conditions.

An injection of new talent next year.

The proximity to the Rotterdam marathon this afternoon, featuring the Ethiopians, and the Boston race on Monday, featuring virtually everyone else, has militated against a better entry. And two of the leading Britons, Steve Jones and Priscilla Welch, are taking their chance on Monday that their runs in Boston will be good enough, cou-

pled with their past performances to get them added to the Olympic trios, to be announced on Tuesday morning.

The appearance money that Boston is offering, far in excess of London's, was evidently a temptation for Jones and Welch. And the London organizers have got to be aware of the commercial realities and treat their captive trialists fairly.

But it is hardly fair on Hugh Jones and Spedding (or even the injured Dave Clarke) to have Steve Jones competing elsewhere for a team place when his only previous championship (in Stuttgart) was a disaster. But Steve Jones has fallen out with the London organizers. And that is something else that needs to be remedied for next year.

The Olympic selection policy is a legacy of that which was decided for the track and field championships later in the summer, one which has

come in for much criticism, and one which is likely to be changed — too late for the marathon runners.

No selection policy is foolproof. But the Canadian system of taking the previous two years' performances into consideration, times and places, is worth consideration.

Hugh Jones and Spedding have the best credentials but they are not the only prospects for Seoul. Kevin Forster has quietly been putting in some impressive performances. And Mike Gratton, a previous winner, and Allister Hutton have done the sort of times which, if repeated, will get them near the front.

In the next rank, looking for the breakthrough are Dave Long, Tony Milovosov, John Wheway, Steve Bruce, Malcolm East and Kenny Stuart. Meanwhile, Susan Tooby, Ann Ford and Angie Pain could best profit from the withdrawals of Veronique Marot and Sally Ellis.

Door is wide open for the other Tooby

By David Powell

Susan Tooby, the marginally less-gifted but equally determined member of running's best-known twins, attempts her first marathon in London tomorrow. As progress among British women has been barely noticeable since the pioneering days of Joyce Smith, the marathon represents an irresistible alternative for Tooby after her disappointing last year at failing to qualify for the world championship 10,000 metres.

"My 10,000 metres running was not improving and it was disappointing," Tooby said yesterday. "I could see me setting out this year and not achieving anything. I thought if I was going to get to the Olympics I would have to do the marathon. With the first two British women across Westminster Bridge guaranteed selection for Seoul, tomorrow will show whether Tooby's decision was the right one."

The door may never open wider for a first-timer, not only to win a major championship place but to go there carrying the weight of British hopes. The second and third-ranked Britons, Veronique Marot and Sarah Rowell, are injured, while Priscilla Welch, the No. 1, cannot at 43 expect much improvement on her national best of 2 hours 26 minutes 51 seconds.

"I would be disappointed if I ran slower than 2:30:00 but I am not saying I am going to run much faster," Tooby said. Since only five British women have broken two and a half hours and none of them is running tomorrow, it would be surprising if Tooby, who is 27, fails to book her ticket to Seoul. "My chances are as good as anybody's," she ventured.

She has no intention of doing what her sister, Angela, did in the world cross-country championship in Auckland last month when she herself upped the ante by taking on Ingrid Kristiansen. Angela finished second to the Norwegian that

First-timer: Susan Tooby

day after forcing the pace for Susan to do the same at an event in which Kristiansen is pre-eminent would be futile. But the possibility of a different Tooby from the one who finished second to Kristiansen in Auckland being runner-up to her tomorrow is strong.

Her 73min 08sec in the hilly and windy Hastings half-marathon and her dissatisfaction at finishing sixteenth in the world cross-country championship are pointers to her ability and to her self-expectations. "I expect the marathon to be a challenge because I am naive to have run 20 miles only twice in training, preferring shorter sessions. But she takes confidence from Rosa Mota, the world champion, who never runs further than 14 miles "because it can be so boring".

One of Tooby's main fears is that the men who will see her as a "scamp" could cause her problems. They did in the Cardiff half-marathon. "One of them got in my way and tripped me flat on my face," she said. "I got away with it. Tooby told herself up, grazed knees and all, and set off in pursuit. "I caught him and gave him a piece of my mind." And, determined as ever, off she went and beat him.

Runners' extra incentive

Up to £9 million will be raised for worthy causes during tomorrow's race (Michael Coleman writes). Among the competitors committed to completing the course and thereby benefiting others are the 12 Times/Tandem Computers Fund Runners. They were selected from the scores of readers who had failed to gain entry to this year's race but felt they merited selection. Profiles of each of the 12 describing what has motivated them into undertaking this gruelling race have been featured on our pages over the preceding weeks.

The Times/Tandem Computers runners are listed below together with their race numbers and the causes for which they are running:

Jayne Westwood (454) and Anthony Westwood (455), Foundation for the Study of Infant Deafness; Jane Dewey (474), ATD Fourth World; Michael Gates (484), Kofun Fitness Association; Roger McEwen (370), help for brain-damaged children; Colin Langford (492), the Souths; Peter Walker (466), Foundation for the Study of Infant Deafness; David James (679), Fairbridge Drake Society; Roydon Gage (379), Vision Aid; Andrew Fane (487), Friends of Great Ormond Street Sick Hospital; David Handley (378), Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus; A M Dabul (4918), Cystic Fibrosis Research Trust.

A chance to share the agony

With 50 miles of free spectator accommodation available, over a million viewers should find ample room to watch Sunday's race in comfort (Michael Coleman writes). In practice, however, most cram into the main tourist spots: Blackheath, at the start, round the Cutty Sark (14 miles), Tower Bridge (12 miles), Trafalgar Square (24 miles) and as close to Westminster Bridge as possible.

These are prime spots to be in, capturing the atmosphere marvellously. But only choose them provided you get there early, stake a claim for a place, and have the muscle to hold ground rigidly. If not, move down the course where you can hear the deep breathing and feel the agony close up. Any part of the Isle of Dogs is now accessible via the Docklands Railway — and there is plenty else to see there.

The whole stretch of the Embankment is always underpopulated while The Mall, both sides, cannot be bettered as the runners gather for their final charge. To see your favourites at their best, however, head for Woolwich.

Trials hit Boston field

Boston (Agencies) — Most of the leading American athletes will be absent from the 92nd Boston Marathon.

The marathon will be held six days before the United States Olympic trials and most of the country's top runners will miss it in the hope of clinching a place for Seoul.

But many of the world's best other runners will take part and Finland, Kenya and Tanzania will use the event as an Olympic trial.

Steve Jones, of Britain, who came second last year, is one of the favourites. He should be tested by Geoff Smith, also of Britain, and Ibrahim Hussein, of Kenya.

In the women's field, Rosa Mota, of Portugal, is the favourite.

Ethiopian runners, including Abebe Mekonnen, winner of the Tokyo marathon, have made a late decision to compete in Rotterdam this Sunday.

SIX TO FOLLOW THROUGH THE CAPITAL



Hugh Jones

Age: 32
Fastest time: 2hr 09min 24sec

The most consistent British male marathoner of the decade, Jones, whose best time came in winning the 1982 London race, has finished in the first 12 of every international championship race he has contested.

Unbeaten by a Briton in London since 1981.



Charlie Spedding

Age: 35
Fastest time: 2:08:33

A former English school 1,500 metres medal winner, Spedding turned to the marathon four years ago, with startling results. He won Houston, the only marathon so far which has needed a photo-finish. Two months later, he won London, then another three months later, won the Olympic bronze medal. His fastest time came the following year, in finishing second to Steve Jones.



Kazuyoshi Kudo

Age: 27
Fastest time: 2:11:36

The leading contender for a third Japanese win in London, following Toshihiko Seko and Hiroshi Taniguchi in 1986-87, Kudo is reserve for the Japanese Olympic team for Seoul. His coach maintains that he is better than his fastest time indicates and that, if the British concentrate on beating each other to gain their own Olympic selection, that will be to Kudo's advantage.



Dave Edge

Age: 33
Fastest time: 2:11:09

A former Blackpool triathlete, Edge emigrated to Canada, and international success six years ago. His best time was set when finishing second in the 1983 Boston race. His best championship performance came in the 1986 Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh, where he was second to Rob de Castella. Already selected for Canada's Olympic team.



Mike Gratton

Age: 33
Fastest time: 2:09:43

Came to marathon prominence in 1982 when he finished third in London. He went on to take the bronze medal in the Commonwealth Games in Brisbane later that year. But his best performance and time remains his win the following year, since when he has had virtually continuous injuries. Finished third in the Marrakesh marathon three months ago.



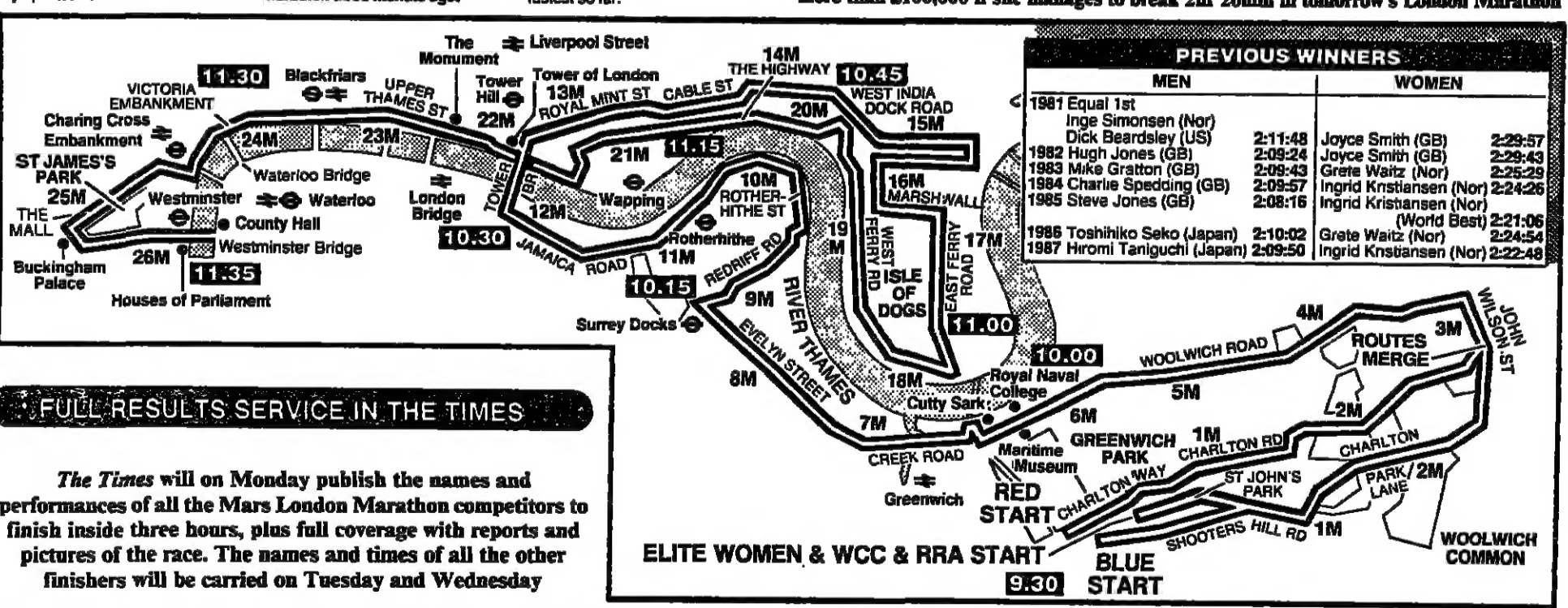
Kevin Forster

Age: 29
Fastest time: 2:11:41

One of the leading yet least recognized contenders for one of the two automatic British Olympic places. A fine cross country runner, Forster was beaten into second place by his Gateshead club colleague, Spedding in the 1984 London race. Has also won Toronto in 1984 and Stockholm in 1987 but that London race remains his fastest so far.



Reason to be cheerful: Ingrid Kristiansen, of Norway, who knows that she will be richer by more than £100,000 if she manages to break 2hr 20min in tomorrow's London Marathon



FULL RESULTS SERVICE IN THE TIMES

The Times will on Monday publish the names and performances of all the Mars London Marathon competitors to finish inside three hours, plus full coverage with reports and pictures of the race. The names and times of all the other finishers will be carried on Tuesday and Wednesday

GYMNASTICS

Morris faces a stiff test from Lou Yun

Fifteen countries will be represented at the Vitalite Championships All tournament at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham today (Peter Aykroyd writes). It is the largest, and most important, of the annual events staged in Britain since the 1973 women's European championships.

Lou Yun, of China, is the favourite in the men's section. He is seventh best in the world overall, and also world and Olympic champion on the vault. His nearest rival is Zivko Panderov, of Bulgaria.

Other gymnasts with a chance of medals are two national champions, Brad Peters, of Canada, and Andrew Morris, of Britain, who took the silver last year, and Kurt Sauter, the former West German champion.

For the women, the veteran Boriana Stoyanova, of Bulgaria, ranked tenth in the world, should capture gold. She will face Olga Bichkova, of the Soviet Union, and the 1981 world champion, who has not been prominent in international gymnastics in recent years. Both are aged 21 but Stoyanova's form should trump the experience of her rival, who is also a former World Cup and European champion.

The leaders could include Astrid Heese, of East Germany, and Fan Di, of China. No. 20 in the world and Karen Hargate, the British silver medal winner, now recovered from injury.

TENNIS

Mottram set for final fling

By David Powell

A decade after helping Britain to their last Davis Cup final, Buster Mottram is on standby to return to the front line of the national game tomorrow. Mottram, who was once ranked fifteenth in the world, now plays only when the mood suits him but is enthusiastic about the prospect of appearing in the climax to the Mortgage Corporation National League season.

Croydon Direct Liners meet Bournemouth Yamaha Aces in the final at the Surrey Tennis and Country Club in Croydon. By way of an indication that the league, in only its second year, is working, the event is sold out and 200 additional seats have been ordered. A crowd of 1,500 is expected. Attendances in general have risen by one-third over last year.

McEnroe passes test

Tokyo — John McEnroe yesterday proved that his competitive instincts were unimpaired, as he reached the semi-finals of the Suntory Japan Open (Barry Wood writes).

His patience was tested as he struggled to subdue Shuzo Matsumoto, from Japan. After losing 7-6, 7-6, despite serving 13 aces, Matsumoto, aged 20, conceded he had considered asking McEnroe for his autograph.

"If he asks me I'll give it to him but the way he plays, in 10

years I might be asking for his. Or my kids might," McEnroe said. "That was a good match for me. I felt that my competitive instincts were good."

He now confronts Brad Gilbert, while Stefan Edberg, defending champion and top seed, plays Tim Mayotte.

The women's final will be between Patty Fendick and Stephanie Rehe. Meanwhile, British juniors Mark Petchey, Colin Becher, Ulli Nganga and Sarah Loosemore all reached their semi-finals.

over one set indoors."

Mottram played for Croydon last season, when they finished third from bottom (one above Bournemouth) but his appearance in the final would be his most challenging task in Britain since the national championships three years ago. The Croydon manager, Headley Baxter, said yesterday that he was unsure whether Bates would return.

A curious twist to the tale of a British league season — a league devised to encourage home players — is that the key rubber will be between two Australians: Darren Cahill, of Croydon via Adelaide, and Peter McNamara, of Bournemouth via Melbourne. Each has been imported as his team's No. 1 and their match carries the most points.

Wilkinson has second chance

Chris Wilkinson, the runner-up last year, earned himself a second attempt at the Prudential British junior hard-court championship with a 6-0, 6-3 win over Simon Cornish at Wimbledon yesterday.

Wilkinson, aged 18, plays Jeffrey Hunter for the title today. RESULTS: Boys singles, semi-finals: C Wilkinson (France) vs S Cornish (Somerset) 6-0, 6-3; Peter McNamara (Bosch) (Yorks), 6-3, 7-6; Girls singles, semi-finals: A Hill (Devon) vs S Smith (Sussex), 6-2, 6-4; A Nicol (Lancs) vs K Harrison (Scon), 6-3, 6-4.

CYCLING

No back-up may count against Elliott

Malcolm Elliott, last year's Milk Race winner, who has not been seen in action in Britain since joining Stephen Roche's team on the Continent in January, has his first domestic race of the season at Rotherham tomorrow (Peter Bryan writes).

It means that he misses the Belgian classic Liege-Bastogne-Liege but the Sheffield rider is not worried: "I wasn't particularly keen to ride the event anyway," he said yesterday.

Elliott is not forecasting victory in the 70-mile race. Suffering from a heavy cold and with no team support, he will find himself at a disadvantage against the home squad — and also aware that he will need to readapt to the British style of short circuit racing.

He is reasonably happy with his form — a second place on the last stage of the Paris-Nice boosted his morale. But one senses that his Fagor squad, without the active leadership of Roche, the world champion, who is still recovering from an operation and this week's sacking of manager Patrick Valke, is not as well-knit as it might be.

For Elliott, the biggest disappointment has been to be told that he must ride the tour of Spain starting a week on Monday, contrary to a promise that he would ride all the European one-day classics. It now means that he will have to miss the Amstel Gold, in which he finished third last year.

YACHTING

Aspiring sailors begin Crewsearch trials

By Barry Pickthall

Sixty-two budding sailors, all hoping that Crewsearch will provide them with a passport into big-time yachting, face their sternest test when the nationwide training programme to find tomorrow's top crews gets under way at Torquay today.

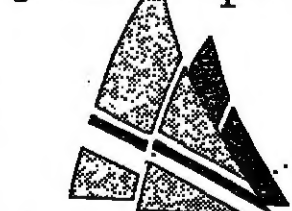
The scheme, sponsored jointly by The Times and James Capel, the global investment house, has attracted twice the number of applicants for the 700 regional places and has, according to Bill Edgerton, the RYA's national keelboat coach, provided the sport with a tremendous shot in the arm.

"The calibre of sailors — which at Torquay range from young Half Ton Cup yachtskipper to a former Royal Navy officer with six months' 12-metre experience already under his belt — has been much higher than any of us expected," Edgerton said on the quayside yesterday.

Most see Crewsearch as a way of being noticed by owners of offshore yachts. Whitbread Round The World Race syndicates and, yes, even the America's Cup.

Those Cup ambitions, which many of the Crewsearch trialists share, took on fresh meaning yesterday after news broke that the 1988 America's Cup syndicate is to build a 90ft monohull to race against New Zealand in September for the right to

THE TIMES James Capel



CREWSEARCH

challenge San Diego for the Cup. The programme starts at 9 a.m. today and tomorrow with a series of arduous fitness tests and continues with crews being put through their paces aboard two Western cruiser/racers off the harbour wall.

Each crewperson will be assessed by Rodney Pattinson, the triple Olympic medal winner, who will then select the top six to sail with him as representatives from the south-west in a grand final in October, when \$1,000 travel bursaries will be awarded to the best individuals.

Riviera return

Nice (AP) — Ivan Lendl, who has not played since February 23, has been accepted as a wild card entry to the Monte Carlo Open.

SKIING

Scobbie looks ahead with confidence

Alasdair Scobbie, recently appointed as Alpine racing director of the British team, has remarked on how economics was by what he saw at the highly successful British championships, which ended on Thursday in Alpe d'Huez (Ian McLeod writes). "An excellent series of races," Scobbie said.

The availability of FIS points ensured that the championships attracted a good quality international field. "What was good," Scobbie added, "is that the children, juniors and seniors were in the one place. More important is that the coaching staff have been able to see all the up-and-coming young talent."

Scobbie was especially pleased at the fine showing of the development squad who, in many instances, outshone the more illustrious names of the senior squad.

"They did exceptionally well," Scobbie said. "They offered proof that their programme of the last three years is working. We started with a young, naive team, yet these people are now breaking through to world class."

Scobbie hopes to announce next season's squad on May 1. The World Cup season begins early with two downhill races at Las Lenas, Argentina in August. "Because of this," Scobbie says, "we can't allow the racers too much time off."

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The Met. Office

Opening fixture offers a chance for early risers

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

Launching the cricket season in mid-April is rather like opening a pub at four in the morning. Not everyone is ready to grasp the opportunity. This year, the unusually early start is clumsily close to a prolonged drought which ended barely three weeks ago. And yet there are reasons other than the recent dry spell for regarding today's events at Lord's as both attractive and important.

In terms of winning and losing, the fixture between MCC and the champion county, Nottinghamshire, is of low priority. In this, of all summers, however, it is the biggest match some of its participants will ever have played, as it represents the closest England's selectors come, these days, to an authentic Test trial.

The MCC team is not chosen by Peter May's panel but their influence is acknowledged. Although none of those

picked was on the post-Christmas tour to New Zealand, all but one still have realistic ambitions at the highest level and, with serious queries over so many of the current England team, this three-day match (which has Sunday play for the first time) is a chance to go to the head of the waiting list.

The exception, of course, is Graeme Hick. To many, he alone will be worth the admission money this weekend, despite the fact that he is not eligible to play for England until 1991. After amassing almost 3,000 runs in all county cricket last year, he had such a striking first winter in New Zealand that the provincial captains voted him their batsman of the year. For good measure, he also scored the small matter of 146 against England.

Of more immediate interest to the selectors, however, will be the performances of Mat-

thew Maynard, the most exciting stroke player to emerge from Wales in many a year; Richard Williams, one of few plausible alternatives for John Embury's position; Gladstone Small, whose fitness has been uncertain for too long; and Jack Russell, surely the heir-apparent to the England wicketkeeping gloves.

There are others, too, for whom success here would be an opportunity and the game provides a fascinating chance to compare opening batsmen. MCC field Graeme Fowler, back at his best with 1,689 runs for Lancashire last year, and Tim Curtis, who scored almost as many for Worcestershire.

Nottinghamshire, of course, have Chris Broad, who may be considered one of the few certainties to start the series against West Indies, and Tim Robinson, who has the challenging task of replacing Clive Rice as captain.

It is no secret that Broad would have liked this job. It is also no secret that the Nottinghamshire public has grown familiar with success and will not lightly accept cheap substitutes. But the components together and it can be seen that the champions, minus Rice and Richard Hadlee, are in for a season to test character as much as ability.

Nottinghamshire have been able to name a full strength team, Kevin Cooper having recovered from a broken leg suffered playing football. Franklyn Stephenson, the Barbadian charged with heavy responsibility in the absence of the departed legends, will bat at six and bowl in a four-man seam attack.

Most eyes, however, will be on the MCC players, led by the engaging Mark Nicholas. They are all aware that it is only a month before yet another international series is underway. It is a chance too good to miss.

Chris Broad, the Nottinghamshire and England opening batsman, yesterday received a £500 award from Cornhill Insurance, who sponsor Test matches in England, for scoring centuries in each of the three countries toured in the winter. Graham Dilley, of Worcestershire, also won £500 for shouldering the responsibility of spearhead bowler.

The Oval set to be saved for Tests

By John Goodbody

The Oval is set to be saved as a Test match ground. Surrey county cricket club is close to announcing a £5.5 million deal, including a £2 million sponsorship from a brewery company, to erect a new stand incorporating a sports centre in the south west corner of the ground.

Last September Surrey warned that if the stands were not built then The Oval would be lost as a Test match ground in the 1990s because its facilities were no longer adequate. Derek Newton, the club chairman, said yesterday: "We are hoping to conclude a deal in the next two days. We may have to call a special general meeting of the members to get their blessing."

The breakthrough in securing the future of The Oval has been for the sponsors to give more than the £1.25 million that they originally offered towards the project.

The rest of the money will come from the Ken Barrington appeal fund, which has raised £3 million and also from Lambeth borough council which has committed £250,000 and the sports council £150,000. The proposed

building on five floors includes a sports centre, primarily but not entirely devoted to cricket, with changing, catering and injury treatment rooms. There will be seating for members and the general public with refreshment bars, hospitality boxes, changing rooms and a dining room for the players, a press box and scoreboard.

The project which has the support of the Duchy of Cornwall, who are the landlords, and Lambeth Borough Council, who has given planning permission, was originally the centre of controversy because the Government declined to give a grant for it.

Prospective members of MCC face a wait of between 30 and 40 years, with 13,452 applicants on the waiting list for some 200 places on offer each year. In an effort to reduce the gap between applying to become a member and joining the near 20,000-strong club, MCC is considering asking candidates on the waiting list to lodge a registration fee, which, if approved by the members, will be set at half the annual £70 subscription and will be deducted from the entrance fee.

Pakistan brave fiery attack

From Richard Streeton, Port of Spain

An invaluable eighth-wicket stand between Salim Malik and Saleem Yousuf took Pakistan closer to the West Indies' first innings total of 174 than seemed likely at one time when the second Cable and Wireless Test match continued here yesterday. By lunch Pakistan were 139 for seven, with Malik 46 not out and Yousuf 29 not out.

They had to survive a fiery assault from Marshall and Benjamin but grew in confidence when Ambrose and Walsh were unable to pose the same threat. Fifteen minutes before the interval Hooper's off-breaks were tried for the first time and brought much-needed variety. By lunch Malik and Yousuf had put on 71 in 18 overs together.

These two came together after Ijaz Ahmed and Imran Khan were soon dismissed. Marshall and Benjamin re-

tained maximum pace as they bawled unchanged through a tense first hour. Ahmed went in the day's second over. Yousuf twice drove fours against Benjamin's cover mid-off and extra cover. Yousuf was fortunate when he edged Marshall, and Dujon got the ball low down in his right glove but could not complete the catch.

Salim Malik edged Marshall for four between third slip and gully and the score reached 100 in the 33rd over. West Indies bowled 12 overs in the first hour before Ambrose and Walsh shared the attack after the drinks break.

Marshall's six overs brought him one for 17 and Benjamin's one for 23. Generally, the West Indians bowled a much fuller length than they did at Georgetown in the first Test and looked all the better for it.

WEST INDIES First Innings
C.G. Greenidge c Ahmed b Marshall 17
D.A. Hughes b Marshall 17
R.B. Richardson c Dujon b Marshall 46
A.L. Lewis c Marshall b Greenidge 12
T.V.A. Richards c Marshall b Greenidge 49
J. Hooper c Yousuf b Greenidge 40
M.C. Anderson b Greenidge 10
M.D. Marshall not out 24
W.K.M. Benjamin not out 29
C.A. Walsh b Greenidge 5
Extras (2, 2, 2) 6
Total 174

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 9-25, 3-40, 4-49, 5-59, 6-147, 7-157, 8-158, 9-157.
BOWLING: Marshall 16.3-3-28-4; Ahmed 14.4-3-55-3; Dujon 13.3-1-33-2; Greenidge 14-3-53-4; Marshall 14-3-53-4.

PAKISTAN First Innings
Muhammad Nazeer c Hughes b Marshall 14
Rameez Khan c Richardson b Marshall 12
Shoaib Akhtar c Richardson b Ambrose 12
Javed Miandad c Benjamin b Marshall 18
Ijaz Ahmed c Marshall b Benjamin 18
Salim Malik not out 46
Saleem Yousuf not out 29
Ijaz Ahmed c Marshall b Benjamin 20
Salim Malik not out 29
Saleem Yousuf not out 29
Extras 12
Total (7 wickets) 139

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4, 2-25, 3-40, 4-44, 5-50, 6-62, 7-65.
Umpires: L.H. Barker and C.E. Kimberley.

Convictions throw new light on Glasgow move

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

Terry Butcher and Chris Woods, convicted yesterday of causing a breach of the peace and fined £250 and £500 respectively, may now be regretting their move to Glasgow Rangers. When the accusations were levelled initially last October, they were both alarmed by the possible repercussions.

There was even a suggestion that the pair of English internationals might choose to leave the Scottish arena if the case was brought to court.

Yet their punishment would seem to be lenient. Kamara, of Swindon Town, was fined £1,200 on Thursday, for instance. He was found guilty of the more serious charge of causing physical damage to an

opponent but his career would now appear to be in danger.

Butcher and Woods insist that any fixture between Rangers and Celtic is enveloped by an air of ferocious animosity. They claim that it is almost impossible not to be sucked into the malicious and emotional atmosphere.

Bobby Robson, the England manager, was still displeased by the reactions of his national representatives. He told them and Butcher in particular that he would not tolerate such behaviour in future.

But some may feel that the case, which has been allowed to drag on for some six months, should never have been debated by legal figures.

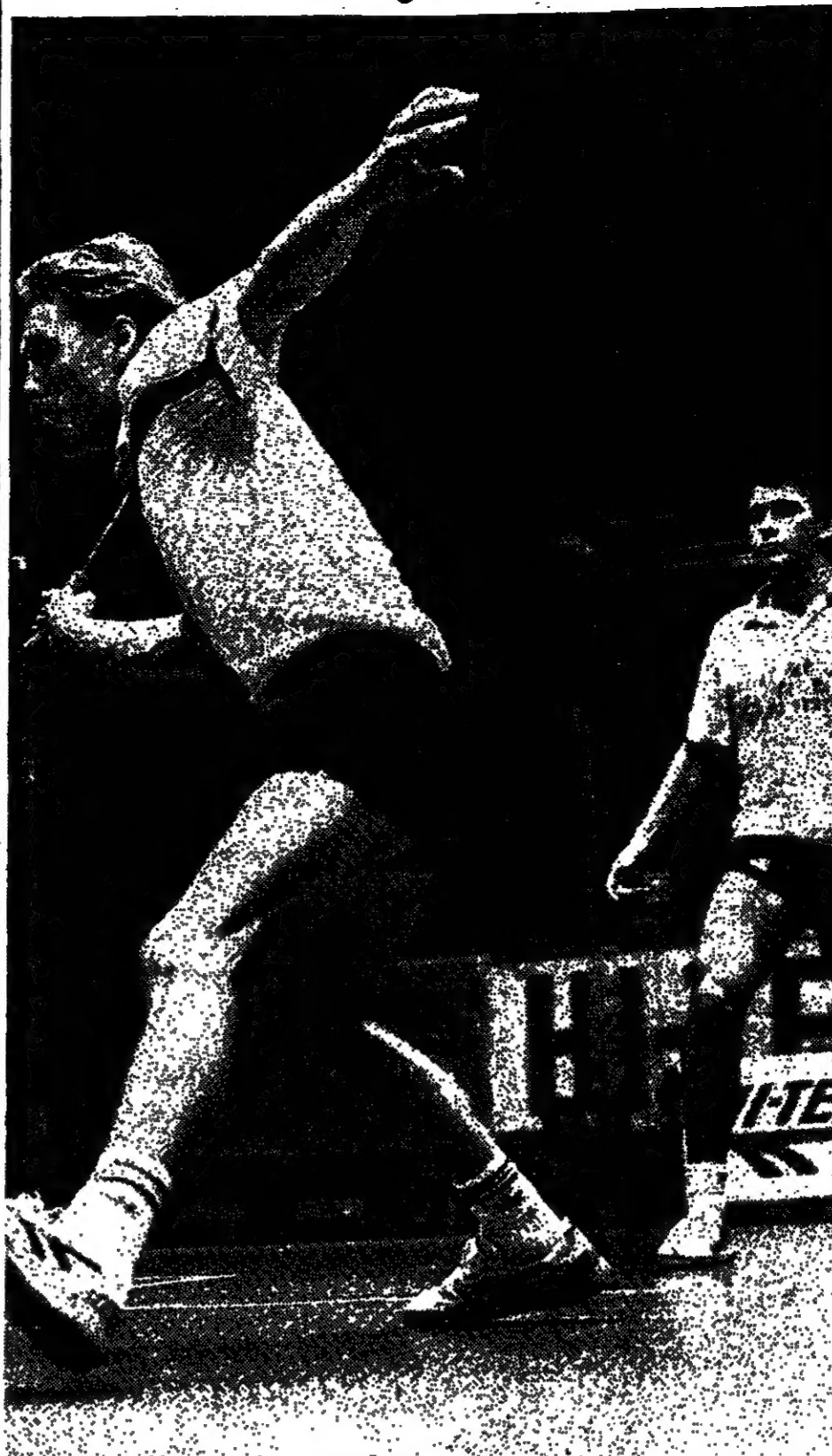
Cruyff joins Barcelona

Johan Cruyff said yesterday in Amsterdam that he had agreed to sign a one-year contract to coach Barcelona next season (Clive White writes). Reuter reported that the former Dutch international would sign in the next two weeks, thereby ending speculation that he would join Derby County.

But the name of Derby was not mentioned in the agency dispatch. Instead they said that Robert Maxwell had offered £1.88 million to Cruyff to take charge of the Dutch club Utrecht.

Cruyff, who played for Barcelona between 1973 and 1979, resigned as coach to Ajax in January

Beeson's day of reckoning



Norman Beeson (right) looks on as Norman moves towards the British Open squash quarter-finals (Photograph: Hugh Routledge). Report, page 41

Hoch inches ahead but Lyle is the man to beat

From Mitchell Platts, Golf Correspondent, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina

Scott Hoch celebrated the early half-way lead in the MCI Heritage Classic with a second round of 66 on the Harbour Town course here yesterday. Hoch, aged 32, took advantage of the perfect conditions to collect five birdies in a flawless performance which gave him a 36-hole aggregate of 134, which is eight under par.

Greg Norman and Paul Azinger, who each scored 65 on Thursday to share the first round lead, were among the late starters along with Bernhard Langer, who began with a 68, and Nick Faldo and Sandy Lyle, who each took 70.

Hoch, the British Amateur Champion nine years ago, chipped to eight feet for his first birdie at the second, and he made another at the long fifth to turn in 34. His patience was finally rewarded following nine successive pars with three birdies in the last four holes. He completed his round in some style by holing from 40 feet at the 18th, the signature hole of this outstanding course, which was designed by Pete Dye in consultation with Jack Nicklaus.

Hoch said: "This is one of the best courses that we visit on the circuit. It really is in

great shape this year although the greens seem to be getting smaller each year. That is one of the reasons why it is difficult to score well here and I would think that a total of around 14 under par should be good enough to win. You have to hit it straight and it benefits

the guy who is striking his irons well.

"That is why Sandy Lyle has to be among the favourites. He's on a marvelous streak at the moment and I thought that his 70 in the first round was a fine score because if he was going to have a let down that is when it would have happened. This course is set up for him. He hits a one iron as far as we hit the driver and on top of that he hits it straight. He's on a hot streak and he is the man to beat."

Norman, who has partnered Lyle in each of the first two

rounds, agrees. "I've never seen Sandy so confident, especially on the greens," said Norman. "Every time he bends over a ball it looks as though he is aiming at a 44 gallon drum."

There is no prouder spectator here than Alex Lyle. "I can recall Sandy saying at the age of 11 that he wanted to be like Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer," said Sandy's father. He's worked with such determination that he deserves to be the Masters Champion like them. As a kid he would practice hitting one iron off dirt for when he got into tight lies. He wouldn't go on the school ski-ing trips for fear of breaking a wrist or a leg.

"His biggest asset is obviously his patience. I drummed into him from an early age that he had to tow the line particularly on a golf course where there is no room for club throwing and tantrums."

"Even here in the condominium where we are staying he cannot stop practising. Lee Trevino taught Sandy a few years ago how to construct a mini course in the hotel room. He practices chip shots over obstacles like chairs and sofas, and he puts an ashtray down to putt into."

Card of the course					
Hole	Yds	Par	Hole	Yds	Par
1	397	4	10	418	4
2	492	5	11	412	4
3	295	4	12	404	4
4	188	3	13	385	3
5	525	5	14	153	3
6	404	4	15	381	4
7	172	3	16	375	4
8	439	4	17	169	3
9	327	4	18	169	3
Total 5,245		36	In 3,211		36
Total yardage: 6,587			Par 71		

Budd's future still a matter for conjecture

By Pat Butcher, Athletics Correspondent

The International Athletics Federation and representatives of the British Amateur Athletics Board shuttled to and fro from conference rooms to fourth floor suites of the Park Lane Hotel in Central London yesterday, attempting to reach some decision on Zola Budd's future. After nine hours of deliberations they failed to come to a decision and will reconvene this morning.

Tony Ward, the British Board spokesman, led the posse of the world's Press disturbing the hotel guests to expect a decision around midday. He made a similar brief statement at 6 p.m. And still nothing was forthcoming, except the product of intermittent high teas and the pleasant strains of a piano echoing through the plush hotel tea room.

Budd, accompanied by John Bryant, her latest coach and advisor, arrived at the Park Lane Hotel an hour later than had originally been demanded by the IAAF. But the morning session of the council was apparently taken up with discussions on Sandra Gasser, the Swiss athlete who is taking her appeal over a drugs suspension to the High Court in London on Monday.

Although Budd had supplied an affidavit to the IAAF, outlining that she had not competed in a meeting in Brakpan, Transvaal, last June,

it was widely expected that she would be called upon to give evidence directly to the Council. But that did not happen. Instead, Ewan Murray, the chairman of the BAAB, and Mike Farrell were used as intermediaries, making trips back and forth from the

Full London Marathon guide, page 40

Council room to Budd's suite. After two trips, nothing had ensued, and the possibility was raised that it may even go into the second session of the Council today.

The Independent Television van parked on double yellow lines throughout the morning in otherwise traffic-blocked Piccadilly was, at first, the only sign of what was happening inside the hotel.

Then three anti-apartheid demonstrators, evidently even later out of bed than Budd, turned up to voice their disapproval. But even they disappeared when the rain started.

The official shuffling indicated that some sort of decision was going on, suggesting that those who had predicted a definite period of suspension for Budd were probably closer to the mark than those with the optimistic polls of life suspension or acquittal for Budd to win immediately.

Ireland turn down South Africa plea

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

There was bad news and good yesterday for the South African Rugby Board (SARB), who hope to raise an international party to visit the republic in August. The Irish Rugby Football Union (IRFU) have followed Wales in turning down the SARB's request for players, but the Australian Rugby Union (ARU) decided that invitations will be forwarded.

The IRFU decided, at a special meeting in Dublin, not to grant the SARB request to invite players, though they did not endorse their statement any further. This will have brought pleasure to Dick Spring, the Irish Labour Party leader and former international, who had earlier urged the union to oppose the tour.

It will also erase the threatened possibility of demonstrations by the Irish anti-apartheid movement at the Dublin Millennium match between Ireland and England on April 23, though whether that, or the prospect of government disapproval, weighed heavily

with the IRFU is open to doubt.

England have already agreed to dissuade players from accepting invitations, though they will not ban them from going, while Scotland consider any South African request on April 29. Such a generally negative attitude will dismay the South African authorities, even though the ARU re-affirmed their original policy yesterday.

John Dedrick, the ARU executive director, said players would be left to decide for themselves. "We neither support nor oppose the invitation," Dedrick said. "The ARU will try to persuade the International Rugby Football Board to rescind the 12-week playing ban on players moving between hemispheres. They also announced a proposal to field a combined Australia-New Zealand XV against the British Lions in the final international of the 13-match tour next year and are seeking the approval of the Returned Services League to call it an Anzac XV."

Battle for top places

By Keith Macklin

While Widnes back in the glory of the championship, other top first division clubs reach the climax of the premiership competition tomorrow.

The battle is on for top four places, which entitle the holders to home games in the first round.

St Helens have virtually clinched second place and should consolidate with a victory over relegated Swinton. Wigan, at home to another relegated club, Hunslet, would require an astronomical score to overhaul the Saints.

Bradford Northern and Leeds compete for the remaining top four places. Leeds are at Salford and Bradford at Hull Kingston Rovers. Both Castleford and Rovers are battling for one of the lower placings. Leeds have a "one-point advantage."

Halifax, the challenge cup finalists, are by no means certain to "compete" in the premiership, and could fall out of the top eight if they lose at Salford, where the home side need just a draw to avoid relegation. Leigh are to stay up, they must win at home to Hull, and Salford must lose.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Sailors go on strike

St Louis, France—The majority of boarders withdrew from the speed sailing event here yesterday as a protest against the Wind Club committee's renewed refusal not to review a disputed timing. Their grievance is that a speed of 36.35 knots, attributed to the leading competitor in the event, Reinhard Eickelhof of Austria, required him to have overtaken Peter Bridgman, from Britain, during his run. They are convinced that this did not happen and want Eickelhof's speed re-checked from the official video of the run, which has the timing superimposed on it.

Aids meeting

The Zimbabwe Boxing and Wrestling Board has convened an emergency meeting to discuss a British ban on a Zimbabwean boxer who was shown to be carrying the aids virus. Langton Timago was to have met Lester Gloster, of Britain, at Peterborough, tomorrow in an eliminating bout for the Commonwealth Lightweight title.

Rackets upset

Robert Wakely, the Marlborough professional, and Matthew Mockridge caused an upset in the Celebration Open doubles rackets championship at Queen's Club yesterday by eliminating the third seeds, Mark and Paul Nicholls. They will now meet William Boone and Randall Crawley, the second seeds, in this morning's semi-final.

Wilkie's bid

The former Olympic swimming champion, David Wilkie, aged 34, who has regained his amateur status, confirmed yesterday that he will take part in the British trials for this summer's Games in Seoul, in Leeds from July 27 to 31, although he does not think he can regain Olympic standard by then.

Graf absent

Ivan Lendl and Martina Navratilova will head the men's and women's fields in the 45th Italian tennis Open. With Steffi Graf deciding not to compete Navratilova has a fine chance of winning the title for the first time.

Price rise

The increasing cost of policing football matches is to be passed on to supporters in the Midlands next season. Birmingham City, West Bromwich Albion, Wolverhampton Wanderers and Walsall will put up terrace prices from £3 to £4. At Aston Villa and Coventry a £3.50 minimum will go up by 50p.

Rain check

After the opening pair, Julian Wyatt and Nigel Felton, had put on 80 Somerset slumped to 114 for five in the one-day cricket match against Glamorgan at Cardiff before rain prevented further play.

Handbook for drug cheats out of date

By John Goodbody

A booklet entitled *Drug testing—So What!!! How to beat the test* is being circulated in Britain. The author is Tony Fitzon, a former member of Britain's power-lifting team, who three years ago pleaded guilty to charges of smuggling anabolic steroids into the United States.

Ron Pickering, the BBC television commentator, who has sent a copy to the Sports Council, said yesterday: "There are copies of this booklet around in this country, which provides further evidence about the extent of the problem of drug taking in sport."

The booklet, which costs £3.50, claims: "Methods of beating the drug tests are being used today. These methods are not a theoretical possibility but a reality."

Among its chief recommendations are: any preparation should be injected into the muscle and not fat deposits; diuretics should be used to dilute urine below the detection limit; and the taking of testosterone, a widely used male hormone which has a strong anabolic action, should

be stopped at least three weeks before a test.

However, Dr David Cowan, associate director of the Drug Control Centre at King's College, London University, said: "People are being misinformed. Any sportsman and women, who take advice from this booklet, will be caught for missing drugs."

"Although the use of diuretics makes it more difficult to identify prescribed drugs, nevertheless we can still detect them," he explained. Diuretics themselves will also be banned by the IOC from the Seoul Games.

Pickering says that there remains the problem of new drugs, which have yet to be identified and banned. Four days ago he spoke by telephone to David Jenkins, who is waiting for sentence in California after pleading guilty to being part of a ring smuggling anabolic steroids into the United States.

Pickering said: "Jenkins told me about the range of drugs now available. It is all much more sophisticated than we thought."

De Savary to have boat ready for cup

By Barry Pickett

Britain is back in the America's Cup. That was the assumption yesterday after Peter de Savary's Blue Arrow syndicate called the bluff of the San Diego Yacht Club by accepting its offer, made in the New York Supreme Court in February, that the British could compete for the cup only if it were raced for this September.

Blue Arrow lost its case last week to have the syndicate delayed for 10 months to allow time for potential challengers including Alan Bond, of Australia, to build yachts, but yesterday de Savary informed the Californian club that he would have a 90-foot waterline monohull built in time.

The completed boat, which will be similar in size to New Zealand's 123ft radical challenger launched last month, will be flown to San Diego in August. Blue Arrow's design team began work on her soon after Michael Fay first challenged the Americans in their super-maxi last July.

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